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Ian Katz on the riddle of TW 800

Salvaging the truth

G2 with today's

LH4356 TW 800 KL 093

Catherine Bennett's advice...

Keep mum, Ma'am

Section page 9

Society

The Centre for Alternative Technology comes of age

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At 6pm, she was unlocked from her room, ready for the men who stop off on their way home for tea to buy sex

Sold for sex. Aged 15

A pioneering project dealing with child sex abuse in Bradford has found that children as young as 12 are being kept prisoner, tortured and pushed on to the streets as prostitutes. The report — released on the same day that Save The Children warns of a worldwide increase in the child sex industry — details the first year at the Barnardos project for child prostitutes and the stories of 45 girls who came looking for help, most of them between 12 and 15 years old. Maggie O'Kane went to Bradford to hear their shocking accounts.

HER room measured 12ft by 12ft, from the blue line of the corridor to the window under the roof. It had a bed, a wardrobe and a view that looked out over the golden tips of a mosque. Under her window, there was a car park and a car repair shop. Her work as a prostitute in Bradford did not begin until 6pm when she was unlocked from her room by her pimp, ready for the men who leave their city offices and stop off on their way home for tea to buy sex from children.

Her story is the story of hundreds, perhaps thousands of British children exposed by a pioneering Barnardos project. When a new landlord took over the premises two months ago, he repainted her attic room to take away the lingering smell of urine and human waste. When she was locked up she used the sink to urinate in and a cardboard box in the corner for her toilet. She was 15 when she was locked into the room, over 17 when she left it. During those two years she was taken out only at night to sell sex along by the deserted mills of Thornton Road and Preston Street. The landlord, or his brother or his friend, took turns to watch her until the early hours. Nights of sex with men went on until she had £200 to give him; ten punters a night at £20 for full sex, £15 for oral sex and £15 for masturbation.

She would be returned to the room in the early hours after her pimp had taken all the money and then he would come at around 3am with fish and chips. Now and again it was chicken and chips. She ate nothing else. When she finally escaped her weight had fallen from 8 stone to 4½. She was sold to her first punter at 15. She remembers him, and the pain he caused. But, after that, it got easier. Her pimp even brought the clothes he wanted her to wear — short, transparent dresses and little skirts. The routine in her attic room never varied. She slept for most of the morning. Walking to watch the men moving towards the mosque at 1pm for prayers. She watched Neighbours, once her pimp brought her a big thick colouring book and crayons to help pass the time.

Now she is a shaky 18-year-old who drinks lime pop, wears pink midriff bare T-shirts, likes listening to those old ballads about love and has been raped four times.

She escaped on November 2 after leaving a note in her sister's social welfare book on which she had written: "Help me."

She heard later he had got a new girl who was 15. Now, she would like to see him six foot under but he is too big and his friends are too big and they would get to her if she told the police. Her journey to the attic of one of those scruffy yellow Yorkshire stone houses began when she was drunk at a party and had sex with Dealer, a Pakistani drugs dealer. She met Dealer afterwards but he did not want to know. A month before she was due to give birth he said that he loved her and that she should go to his mother's house. She gave birth to a daughter, now three, in the front room with his mother, sister, aunt and granny to help her. There was no midwife or doctor at the birth, which was never registered. She remembers just the terrible pain and the sound of the men in the kitchen until she heard them turning the television up. After the birth, the baby was taken away. Everyone said it was the best thing because she was "too poorly". She spent 3½ weeks in the house. Dealer's sister said she had registered the baby as hers and her baby was going to Pakistan all the time Dealer had told her about loving her and wanting to take care of her and the baby was wrong.



Life for many girls on the streets includes rape, torture, beatings and imprisonment by pimps PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE FORREST

She was feeling a bit soft when she met her pimp on Skinner's Lane. He said she was lovely and kept hating her for her address. He was in his twenties and good looking. He listened and was very understanding when she explained about her baby. He said he was going to help her get her baby back.

He found her the attic flat with the view of the golden tipped mosque, a garage repair shop and a car park. He was careful when he beat her with the dumb bell weights he got from the Argos catalogue; careful, that he always got her in the stomach or back — places where it did not show. Her foster mother sent the police round once but she stood behind the door and she told the police that she was fine and that she was not locked up at all. There were girls in the other bedsitting rooms with views she never saw. Her pimp would want sex from her as well as the other girls. He gave her something

called chlamydia — a word she cannot quite pronounce — and now her tubes are messed up and she cannot have any more babies. That is why she would like to find her baby and why she is telling her story — so the same thing will not happen to other girls. Leader comment, page 8

'Ethics' row over Saatchi peerage

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR last night precipitated a fresh storm over the ethics of political patronage and negative electioneering when he awarded a peerage to Maurice Saatchi, the legendary advertising tycoon behind the "demonic eyes" poster campaign against New Labour.

To compound the felony among indignant Opposition MPs and officials, the Prime Minister gave a second "working peerage" to Peter Gummer, the younger brother of the Environment Secretary and another key Tory insider.

As chairman of the giant Shandwick public relations firm, he is — like the new Lord Saatchi and Sir Tim Bell — one of the three wise men advising on Conservative election tactics in the crucial eight months ahead. In recent weeks even some Tory MPs have become alarmed by their negative tone.

Denouncing the duo as Lords of the Lies, Labour's Frank Dobson declared that "no coronet and ermine will cover up Maurice Saatchi and Peter Gummer's role in dragging British politics lower than the gutter".

Today's announcement contained 12 other working peers — half of them nominated by the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties. These included Labour-sponsored life baronies for Sir Richard Rogers, the international architect, and for Liz Symons, head of the senior Whitehall officials



union, as well as for John Alderdice, the Alliance Party leader in Northern Ireland. Life peerages also go to two figures from the ethnic minorities. John Taylor, the black barrister who failed to hold Cheltenham against a racist undertow in 1992, is on Mr Major's list. Tony Blair nominated Swraj Paul, the Punjabi-born steel magnate and philanthropist.

Though Labour is pledged to reform the Lords by depriving 750 hereditary peers of their votes, it and the Liberal Democrats are always short of working peers willing to turn up. Nearly 500 peers take the Tory whip, barely 100 Labour's and fewer than 80 are Lib Dems.

The new Lord Paul, aged 65, is donating around £50,000 a year to Labour and was once

Turn to page 2, column 3

Lord Saatchi ready for attack, page 5

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NHS agrees to foot bill for mother carrying 8 babies

Chris Mihill Medical Correspondent

THE Midlands health authority that had refused to pay for the London care of Mandy Allwood, the woman carrying eight fetuses, yesterday changed its mind.

Talks will now take place between Solihull health authority and Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth authority in south London, over the details of who will pay the estimated £500,000 for her care, but the sum will be met by the NHS. Solihull last Friday said that equally good care was available at Birmingham hospitals. It said yesterday it had not understood Miss Allwood had moved to London, and had been under the impression she was commuting from Solihull.

A spokesman for King's College hospital in London said that doctors there would treat her, and added: "The details of who is to pay have yet to be sorted out between the two local authorities."

Hollywood 'bans' Major's Oscars

Ian Black

HOLLYWOOD movie moguls have taken a strongly and unfortunately legalistic dislike to the British government over its well-meaning attempts to reward good but non-glitzy public service under the Citizen's Charter.

Downing Street has ordered all departments to refrain from future use of the word "Oscar" after complaints by the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science — who dish out those coveted golden statues to film stars.

Hollywood, proving again that there really is no business but respect when the publicity for last year's Charter Mark awards used the phrase "Public Service Oscars", and ordered its British agent to protest about trade mark infringement.

The threat of legal action was so serious that the Treasury Solicitor — the government's lawyers — has formally ordered the Citizen's Charter unit to undertake not to use the marks "Oscar" or "Academy Awards", whether presented to the public or private sector.

US objections may have arisen because the British Oscars are so unglamorous. The Charter Mark, one of the flagships of John Major's Citizen's Charter, is described as "a chance to thank people who work in public services — from nurses and teachers to librarians and binmen".

The British Oscars scheme was launched in 1992 and there are 314 companies and organisations providing a direct service to the public which are entitled to display the seal of approval for three years. The Hollywood Oscars are so called because when the statue was first struck in 1927 a secretary said: "It reminds me of my Uncle Oscar." Latest winners of the real thing include Mel Gibson, Emma Thompson, Nicholas Cage and Susan Sarandon.

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Sketch

Time the tiniest pub called time



David Pallister

I used to be the pub with no name. Back in the 18th century it was just a tiny ale house for local farm labourers. Then along came the second Earl Grey...

The Liberty title has been lost in the mists of time, and on Hallowe'en night this year the Earl Grey, in the village of Quenington, Gloucestershire, will also become a part of folk memory...

With only 12 regular customers, it's not a commercial proposition, she said. "Most days I never see anyone. But the work and standing behind the bar are getting too much for me."

Age 68 and 17 years a widow, Lucie has had a remarkable life. In 1928 she is lucky to have ended up in the village in one piece. The Germans seemed to have a personal vendetta against her...

"We sat in a cafe and drank champagne," she said yesterday, still revealing a trace of her French accent.

Another British ship eventually picked up the family, together with a drunken Scotsman and two RAF pilots who had bailed out, and after a detour round north Africa, they disembarked at Liverpool.

As if that wasn't enough, after settling in Cardiff and then Bristol, the family were bombed out of both of their homes.

Lucie became a publican almost by chance. She was chairwoman of the Conservative Association in Bristol North West when she had to sack the club steward. "I took on the job myself and thought I could make a living out of this. First there was a pub just south of Gloucester, then a small hotel in Torquay for a couple of years.

While she was on a visit to see one of her three sons in Dallas, Texas, 10 years ago, another son rang up to say he had found the perfect place — a snip at £75,000. She went to see it the moment the plane touched down at Heathrow. It had been closed for a few years, with a succession of landlords unable to make it pay.

But with a private income from her husband's business, Lucie persevered. And if the oak-beamed bar room, festooned with brasses, gets a wee bit crowded, customers can use her front room next door where the juke box has not had a change of records for a decade. She's keen on Abba, but her favourite is Nilsson's Without You.

Having already lost the school and the shop, the 600 villagers of Quenington still have another pub. The Keeper's Arms, a stagger away from the Earl Grey. Tom Porter, the landlord, said: "She's a star. It will be the end of an institution."

Yesterday Quenington's village green was bathed in hazy sunshine and silence. The Wadsworth 6X from Lucie's two steel casks behind the bar was suitably warm. A couple of regulars passed by. It was a scene that would have brought a tear to John Major's eyes.

Edinburgh review

Whisper of death, rivers of turps

painting is a very peculiar kind of object, and that as much as painting is concerned with illusion and effect, it is the product of physical processes and materials.

Innes's work demystifies the craft of painting. The claims made for Innes as a kind of closest landscape artist make me uneasy, although the way his work is made — the erosion of colour by rivers of turps, the sediment of pigment raised down on to bare canvas, washed-away penumbrae of colour and lagoons of resinous shellac — undoubtedly refer to weather and geology.

But this, finally, is a classical show of late 20th century abstraction, a lesson in how to hang an exhibition, and in the kinds of dialogues that paintings set up, both amongst themselves and in relation to the architecture and the viewer.

Innes's paintings are more about interval and proportion, of colour against the absence of colour, density and coagulation against weightlessness and dispersion, as they are about vaporous light, or dumb evocations of Scottish mist.

Painfully intense synthetic colour burns against silence, rubbed-out, empty canvases breathe against opaque rectangles, geometry contests randomness.

This is the real thing, and a perfect antidote to the madness on the Royal Mile and Peruvian pan-pipers on the Mound.

Callum Innes at Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, until October 6. Daily 10-5 (0131 552 7171)

Tussaud's bid for Stonehenge 21st century tourism contract

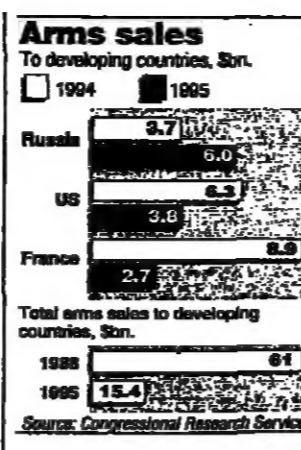
THE FIRM that runs Madame Tussauds waxworks and the Alton Towers theme park is among four heritage companies competing to take the "Stonehenge experience" into the next century.

The four have been shortlisted for the contract to design, build, finance and operate a centre to cope with an expected doubling of the 708,000 visitors each year to the 5,000-year-old monument, as English Heritage, the quango responsible for the world heritage site, seeks to protect the ancient stones and improve access. The present visitor's centre, from which people must walk by underpass to the stones, is considered a national disgrace.

Washington fights for share of market which has plummeted to a quarter of its peak eight years ago

Russian arms sales beat US

except the US, Russia, Western Europe, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. The developing nations, it said, accounted for slightly more than half of arms purchases worldwide last year.



RUSSIA has overtaken the United States as the leading arms seller to the developing world, and now has 40 per cent of the much shrunken international arms market, according to a report published by the Congressional Research Service yesterday.

Russian arms sales rose by 82 per cent last year, to \$6 billion (\$3.97 billion). Two thirds of this came from the sale of Sukhoi fighter bombers to China, and a lesser sale of the same aircraft to Vietnam. The deals were big enough to send Russia to the top of the league in a generally flat year on the international arms market.

The arms trade has declined five years in a row, to a total \$15.4 billion last year, down from the 1988 peak of \$81 billion. The Gulf war's boost to the market for high-tech US weaponry has dissipated — US arms sales fell from \$6.3 billion in 1994 to last year's \$3.8 billion.

Like most other sellers to the Middle East, Russia also saw a collapse of its lucrative market in Iran. Russia sold Iran \$3.5 billion of arms between 1988-91, and has sold it only \$200 million since.

The US is seeking new markets, and the Clinton administration is proposing to lift restrictions on arms sales to Latin America, long constrained to prevent any regional arms race.

"It's absurd, and dangerous. We ought to be celebrating that the arms market is in decline. But these are very useful statistics for US industry, even though the reality is that Russia is not surging ahead and capturing our markets. This is a one-year anomaly."

The US response to the declining market has already begun, with a \$15 billion military export financing programme authorised by Congress last year. Paul Hoyer, under-secretary of defence for international and commercial programmes, has already listed 37 nations which qualify for the US subsidies, including China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Chile and Mexico.

China's rearmament is expected to fuel new markets among its nervous neighbours, although China too is now creeping into the list of arms export leaders with its sales of Silkworm missiles to Iran, and other exports to Pakistan and North Korea.

The desperation of US arms exporters is producing some bizarre deals. McDonnell-Douglas accepted part of Thailand's \$580 million payment for eight F-16 fighters in the form of frozen chickens.

The figures in the CRS report also may undervalue the real scale of US sales, because since 1990 so much US equipment has been sold at big discounts. In that period, the US transferred 3,900 tanks and 500 combat aircraft to a range of countries. Greece and Turkey received the lion's share of the equipment from US Nato stocks, which had to be reduced under the 1990 conventional arms reduction treaty.

Conventional arms transfers to developing nations, 1988-95, by Richard Grimmett, Congressional Research Service, Washington DC.

Alan Bond jailed on art fraud charges

Health plea ignored as example is made of former Australian of the year who abused his power

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

ALAN BOND, the penniless British-born heir baron and multimillionaire, was jailed for three years yesterday for an intricate fraud involving a French impressionist masterpiece.

Plans for leniency were ignored, including claims that Bond, aged 58, who was once named Australian of the year, was sick and could die in jail.

Passing sentence, Perth District Court Judge Antonette Kennedy said that despite defence claims that Bond was a national hero and should not be made a scapegoat for the excesses of the '80s, prison was the only option.

She told Bond that while some would regard the jail term as lenient, "any prison sentence is a life sentence for someone in your position, in that you cannot sink into anonymity."

Last Friday a jury found Bond guilty on four counts of fraud relating to the millions his family company, Dalhoid Investments, made on transactions involving Edouard Manet's La Promenade.

They found he had improperly used his position as director of the flagship public company Bond Corp, which he founded, to allow Dalhoid to buy the painting in 1988 for about \$1 million — \$5 million less than its market value. He sold it a year later for \$8 million.

As Bond was led away his lawyers said he had a stiff upper lip. But defence QC Julian Burnside said: "We are convinced that a term in prison may kill Mr Bond or substantially injure his health."

Prosecutor Brian Martin QC argued that if Bond — who has high blood pressure — had merely been fined it would create the impression that "if you are big enough, you can get away with it."

Bond will serve at least 12 months; the defence team said he would appeal.

That tactic crumbled in 1992 when Bond, who gave his name to Australia's first private university, was released from a prison farm after serving three months. His dishonesty convictions involving the bungled rescue of a merchant bank were later quashed on appeal.

This is the latest, but not the last, courtroom chapter in the saga of riches and back again of "Bondie", who won Australia's America's Cup yachting trophy in 1983. At one stage his art collection included 300 old masters and impressionist paintings, and in 1987 he stumped the art world by buying Van Gogh's Irises for \$32 million. Much of his collection was sold off in 1993 after his first fall from grace.

The money Bond made on La Promenade was at the expense of shareholders in Bond Corp, which went bankrupt in 1991. A string of charges followed, and after a long round of hearings, Bond was declared bankrupt, underwent open-heart surgery and remarried.

The most serious charges against Bond have still to be heard. Later this year he faces a huge compensation claim from the liquidators of Bond Corp; more criminal charges are to be heard in April 1997.

The former high-flier's unauthorised biographer, Paul Barry, said the most recent conviction was small beer compared to asset-stripping charges he still faces.

"The main thing has still to come to trial and that involves more than A\$1,000 million (\$500 million) which was lifted from a company called Bell Resources and basically spent by the Bond group of companies," he said.

Bond's wife Diana Bliss, the only member of his immediate family at court, said afterwards: "I'm upset that Alan has to go to prison, as I'm sure a lot of Australians are."

"However, we are grateful for judge Kennedy's comments about the family and Alan's contribution to the community."

The judge had said that although Bond had many strong qualities, and was admired by many Australians, he had brought his misfortunes on himself.

Wizards of Oz

Australians who built business empires

Rupert Murdoch, media magnate

Aged 65. Media empire includes four British newspapers, New York Post, 40 per cent of BSkyB, Star satellite TV, HarperCollins publishers and half the papers sold in Australia each day. Became American citizen to get round US media ownership laws. No known interests apart from businesses and family.

Kerry Packer: split world of cricket

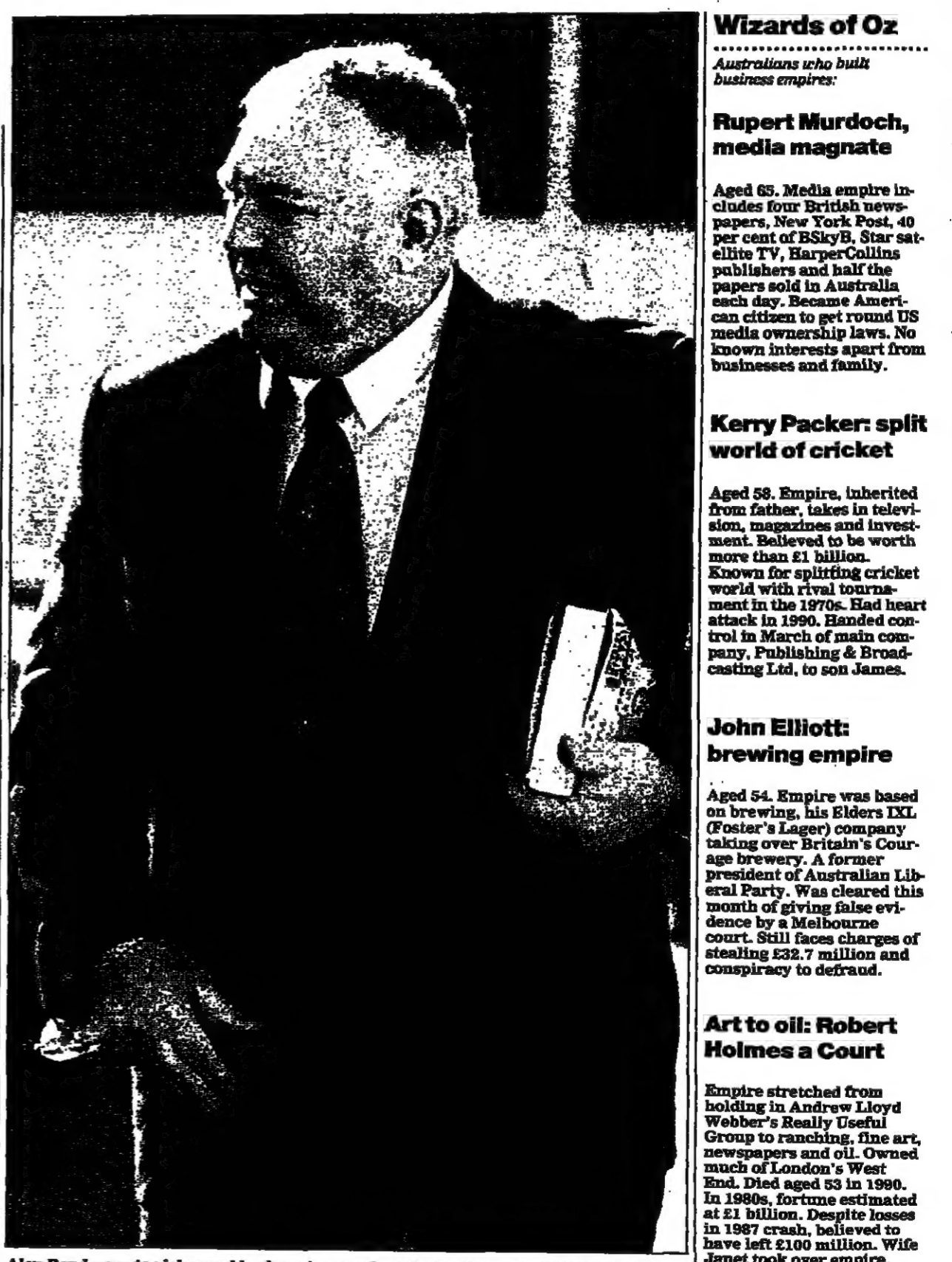
Aged 58. Empire, inherited from father, takes in television, magazines and investment. Believed to be worth more than £1 billion. Known for splitting cricket world with rival tournament in the 1970s. Had heart attack in 1990. Handed control in March of main company, Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd, to son James.

John Elliott: brewing empire

Aged 54. Empire was based on brewing, his Elders IXL (Foster's Lager) company taking over Britain's Courage brewery. A former president of Australian Liberal Party. Was cleared this month of giving false evidence by a Melbourne court. Still faces charges of stealing \$32.7 million and conspiracy to defraud.

Art to oil: Robert Holmes a Court

Empire stretched from holding in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group to ranching, fine art, newspapers and oil. Owned much of London's West End. Died aged 53 in 1980. In 1980s, fortune estimated at \$1 billion. Despite losses in 1987, was believed to have left £100 million. Wife Janet took over empire.



Alan Bond, rags-to-riches and back again mogul, at the Perth court which jailed him

Ethics row erupts as Tories give life peerages to image men in negative campaigning

continued from page 1 a Tory donor, though his wider charities cost him £500,000 a year. He once gave £1 million to help save London Zoo.

But his nomination, like that of Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman of the Tesco supermarket group and an enthusiastic Tory donor, attracted only modest interest compared with outrage over the Satchi-Gummer awards.

"It's the crassest, crudest, most maladroit move I have seen in a long time," said one senior Labour MP.

Mr Satchi is blamed for the focus on Labour and Mr Blair's untrustworthiness which culminated in rapid withdrawal of the "demonic eyes" poster attack on the Labour leader this month, amid criticism from bishops and others.

Mr Dobson said last night: "They've already admitted that it's a lie to portray Tony Blair as the devil incarnate. They've already admitted their objective was to make that image of him the principal image of the general election campaign. They are proud to peddle lies. This announcement confirms that John Major has given his personal seal of approval for the most negative election campaign ever."

But one Satchi loyalist said: "No wonder they hate Maurice, he helped keep them out of office for 20 years."

Mr Gummer is targeted as an even more shadowy figure behind efforts to trumpet revived economic success with such devices as the industry-backed brochure called "The World Thinks Britain's Great" which had a party political favour.

He is also seen as working to discredit such Labour plans as the windfall tax. Blairite support for the social chapter, and the minimum wage are also being used to undermine growing business support for a change of government.

The new peers are: Joyce Anley, former chairman of the Conservative Women's National Committee (Con); Hazel Dwyer, President of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations (Con); Mita Ramsey, former diplomat, now an international affairs consultant and foreign policy adviser to the Leader of the Opposition (Lab); Elizabeth Symons, General Secretary of the Association of Free Division Child carers and an Equal Opportunity Commissioner (Lab);

Shankar Gokul and the chairman designate of the Royal Opera House (Con); Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco plc (Con); Maurice Satchi, chairman of the UK & G Satchi Agency (Lab); John Taylor, barrister, writer and television presenter (Con); David Currie, Professor of Economics and former deputy principal of the London Business School (Lab); Suraj Patel, chairman of Caparo Group Ltd and leading Asian businessman (Lab); Sir Richard Rogers, architect and vice-chairman of the Arts Council (Lab); John (Larry) Whitty, former general secretary of the Labour Party and now its European coordinator (Lab); John Alderton, Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland (Lib Dem); Martin Thomas, GC, a Recorder of the Crown Court and President of the Welsh Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem).

Baroness — Pinar Gummer, Chairman of the Welsh Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem).

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Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Parting can be such sweet sorrow - but some manage to jump before they get pushed

Some of those who reached the top of their professions and had the wit to quit while they were ahead:



Ronnie Barker ... went off to run an antique shop in 1987 at the age of 59 after decades of successful gags.



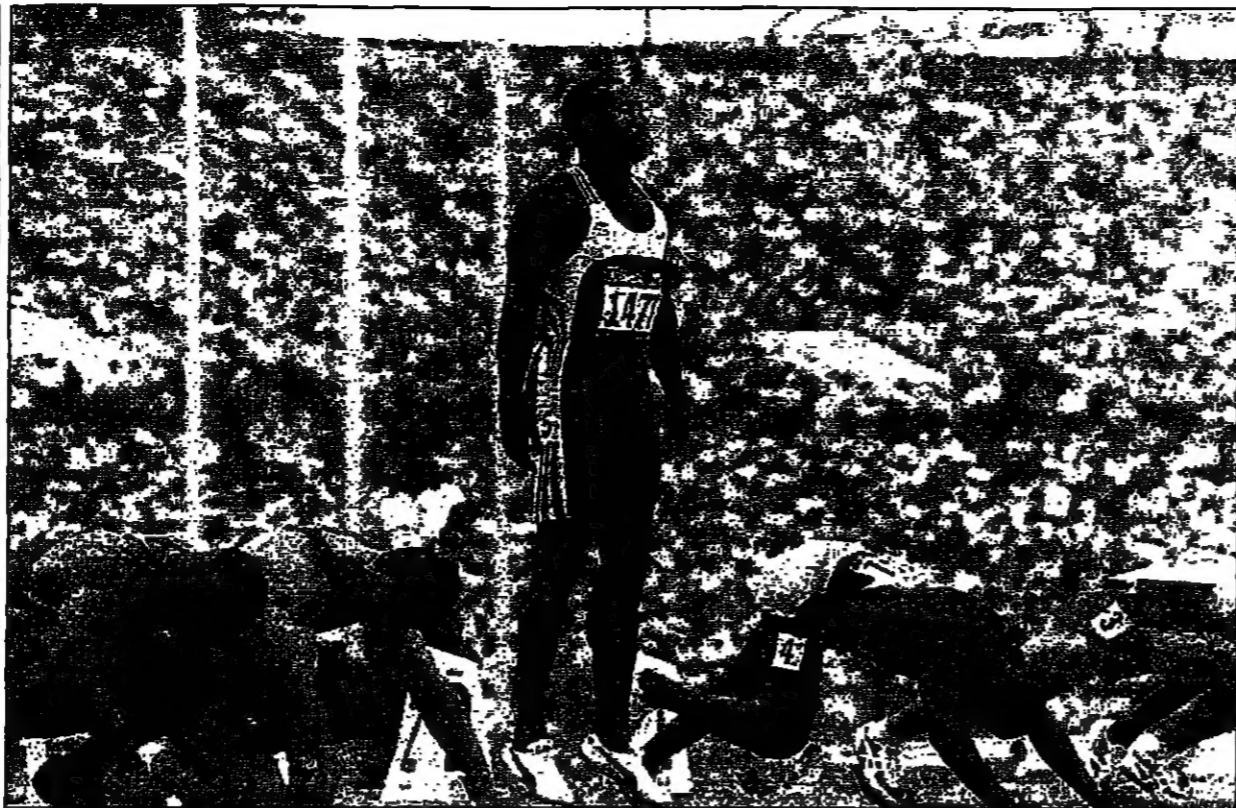
Lord Wilson ... won four elections out of five for Labour but resigned out of blue in March 1976.



Gary Lineker ... left Spurs for money and celebrity in Japan; got a toe injury and retired to be a commentator.



Greta Garbo ... bowed out in 1941, became a legend and lived in seclusion. Died aged 84 in 1990.



Linford Christie, at a 100m heat in Atlanta, is bent on one last go before he hangs up his spikes PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL STEELE

Christie's final false start

Britain's sprint ace is to give it one more go before hanging up his spikes. John Duncan on the art of knowing when to quit

IS IT us or is it them? We wanted to remember Linford Christie as the bulging-eyed Olympic champion of Barcelona but he just had to have another crack in Atlanta. OK, we thought, never mind the starting pistol, let's wave goodbye at Gateshead. But no, now he is going to have one last go in Germany. Just one more, you understand, just one more. The toughest thing about being at the top, it seems, is knowing when to call it a day.

Of course Christie, who claims he is doing his German doctor a longstanding favour, is not the first. Frank Bruno wiped off the pantomime greasepaint in his 30s before wiping the smile off Oliver McCall's face for a world title and then freezing in front of Mike Tyson. Lester Piggott should not have saddled up after his last classic win on Rodrigo de Triano in 1992, but drifted unheavily for another two years winning very little. Why?

The operative word here is compulsion, said Christie's personal trainer, Rupert Conolly, a director of Sporting Bodymind, a sports psychology company which for 17 years has advised sportsmen, including British Olympians and football teams, on the mental requirements of the game.

to stop. And while he is enjoying it and is fast enough, why should he?

Some manage it. Gary Lineker's career remains a golden wonder thanks to him being ditched by Graham Taylor for England, dumping Spurs for Japan and then getting injured. Greta Garbo wanted to be alone and got her way as soon as possible. Ronnie Barker leaped off sitcom's slippery slope to run a small shop. And Harold Wilson secured his name in history by dropping Jim Callaghan right in it at No. 10.

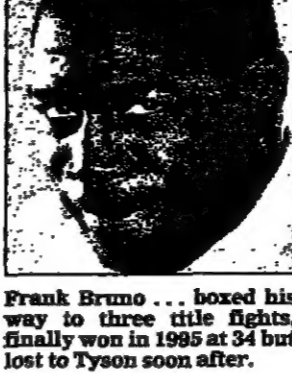
Others like Ivan Lendl pack in one game - tennis - and move on to another - golf - almost as if competition in some form is an addiction. Black himself kept going despite a series of injuries and illnesses that had many assuming he would retire. "I had glandular fever in '93 and I could have stopped then," said Black. "I had told myself at that point that I could stop whenever I wanted, but I had to admit then that athletics mattered more to me than I had let on and that my happiness depended on it."

Nor is it an affliction only of sport. Margaret Thatcher was not for turning until her party turned on her. Bob Dylan has not realised that times have already changed as far as he is concerned, and Tony Curtis should have just snogged Marilyn Monroe and walked away.

Some of those who thought they could go on forever, and did not heed the voices telling them to go:



Lester Piggott ... Came back at 55, but retired again in 1995, after year without a winner.



Frank Bruno ... boxed his way to three title fights, finally won in 1995 at 34 but lost to Tyson soon after.



Lady Thatcher ... tried to take '80s values into '90s and failed. Party lost nerve in 1990 and forced her out.



Bob Dylan ... success and riches until mid-70s but poor since. Played to 150,000 at Hyde Park this summer.

Children 'left to fight birds for crumbs'

Owen Bowcott

THREE brothers and their sister, all aged under four, were in foster care last night after one was found eating stale bread left out for the birds.

Neighbours in the Ardoyne, north Belfast, alerted police when it was claimed that the children's 22-year-old mother had abandoned them overnight in the company of four drunken youths, to travel to a seaside party 30 miles away.

RUC officers and social workers who took the children into care were forced to mask their faces as they searched through scenes of squalor in the terrace house.

Milk bottles filled with urine were standing in bedrooms while the younger children's nappies had not been changed. One boy was covered in lice and the mattress in a cot was soaking.

Lindsay Conway, chairman of the Northern Ireland branch of the British Association of Social Workers, described the conditions as horrendous.

But the mother said last night she was the victim of a smear campaign and was out shopping rather than at a party when the children - the youngest 10 months old - were taken into care. "Somebody wrecked the house before the cameramen went in to take pictures of it. Somebody took the curtains down. It was spotless when I left it."

"I went to get my [shopping] and when I came back the kids were away."

Neighbours said they had been concerned for some time about the conditions in which the children were living, and the noisy drinking parties at the house. Local families had given the children food whenever possible.

None of the youths with whom the mother left the children was a relative. Early the next day, the oldest boy, evidently famished, climbed out of a sitting-room window and began to scour streets and gardens for something to eat.

"He was off to pick up the bread that was left for the birds," a neighbour said. "He was seen going through bins looking for food. People saw him eating the scraps of leftovers from takeaways thrown away the night before."

police, the children were fed and washed by a neighbour, who said: "The baby boy drank five bottles of milk. The conditions they were being kept in were filthy. Nobody could live there."

Bobby Lavery, a Sinn Fein councillor, said there was widespread anger at the way the case had been handled.

"The entire neighbourhood is up in arms. The establishment must carry some of the blame. I'm not trying to absolve this woman from blame, but she clearly needs as much help as the children do."

The cuts in social benefits and welfare in an area where there is 70 per cent unemployment are disgraceful. The authorities had been to this house before.

A neighbour said: "The welfare was to blame. They made regular visits but they just seemed to have overlooked the problem. This is what made us so angry."

"When you think of what those poor children had to suffer, it's awful. People can't believe something like this could happen, practically on their own doorstep. They were asked twice to do something, but what happened? Nothing."

North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust said the family was known to staff. Out-of-hours social work services had responded promptly and arranged to have the children taken into care.

"When we knew the situation had deteriorated so badly we acted immediately," a spokeswoman said. "The children are in care and safe."

"Social workers cannot be there 24 hours a day. Cases of neglect can be harder for professionals. There are no obvious signs as in sexual or physical abuse and the situation can deteriorate very rapidly."

The law requires that parents are given support in bringing up their children, the spokeswoman added. Taking children into care and removing them from their family should occur only when there was no other option. An internal examination of the cases was under way.

BSkyB and BT seek digital link as TV profits surge by £100m

Roger Cowe

BRITISH Telecom is negotiating a partnership with satellite broadcaster BSkyB which would help both sides fight off growing competition from cable suppliers.

The negotiations were confirmed yesterday by BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, as it revealed a £100 million jump in profits to £257 million. The surge followed sustained growth in Sky subscriptions, which pushed annual sales past £1 billion for the first time.

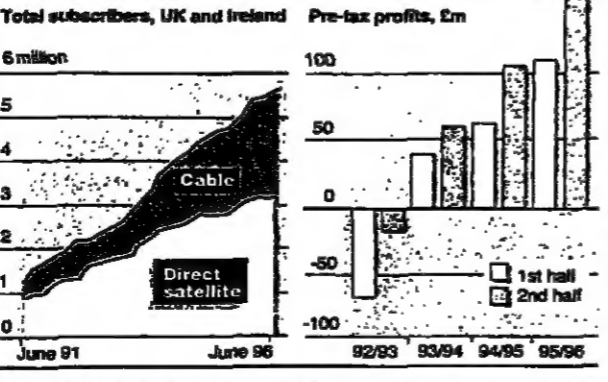
Yesterday neither side would reveal details of their discussions, which are aimed at capitalising on the launch of digital television towards the end of next year. But BT is expected to make an announcement about its digital strategy next month.

BSkyB's chief executive, Sam Chisholm, said a link with BT to provide telephone and interactive services was "one of the imponderables" which the company had to face in gearing up for digital services.

Confirming that talks were taking place, a BT spokesman said: "We are looking at all developments in digital."

BT is working with the BBC on a trial of terrestrial digital broadcasting, and has conducted its own video-on-

Sky high performance



demand trials in Ipswich and Colchester. But a link with the satellite company would enable it to achieve national coverage quickly and cheaply, and provide the movie content.

BSkyB intends to offer virtual-video on demand as part of its digital service, which will also deliver higher quality pictures and sound. Mr Chisholm said he also aimed to use the huge new satellite capacity to offer interactive services in areas such as banking, home shopping and seat reservations. Such services would need a telephone company partner.

City analyst Anthony de Larinaga said a link between the two communications companies would help both to fight off an increasing threat

from cable operators. "Both sides would win," he said. "BSkyB would accelerate the growth of its digital base, while BT would hope to keep down the penetration of cable telephone users."

The development of digital technology will also herald large-scale pay-per-view television. Sky introduced this with the Bruno-Tyson boxing match this year, and plans further events this autumn on its existing analogue satellite service.

Head of programming David Elstein said the fight attracted 650,000 one-off sales and the match itself was watched by at least 5 million people. "Pay-per-view when commercially marketed is clearly a product for the future," Mr Elstein added.

Despite plans to introduce the higher quality digital service next year, Sky's existing service continues to expand. Subscriptions grew by almost a fifth last year to 5.5 million, pushing up BSkyB sales by 30 per cent to £1,006 million. But cable subscribers, who are less profitable, continue to grow faster than satellite viewers. Dish sales since Christmas have been lower than in the past two years, while sales to cable customers grew last year by almost two thirds to £121 million, overtaking advertising revenue.

Growth in profits was helped by lower interest costs following the share issue in 1994, while the tax bill remains negligible. Finance director Richard Brooke said the company had previously underestimated the scale of tax losses available, and did not now expect to pay tax until 1997/98.

BSkyB continues to add channels and will be providing more than 40 by the end of the year. Included in 11 new services this autumn will be a weather channel, the Warner Channel and seven launched jointly with Gramed yesterday that it is still negotiating a 49 per cent stake in Germany's first digital TV service, DF1, which was launched last month, and that it still expects to take a stake in the Premiere German pay TV service.

Advertisement for Midland Bank featuring a woman and the text: 'This is Sam. Sam's just got £40 by opening a Midland student account (which she'll definitely spend on a pair of Converse trainers). She's also got a BT Chargecard with £10 worth of free calls (which she might use to call her boyfriend Tony in Leeds - then again she might not). She could have called 0800 180 180 or applied for an account at her local Midland. or opened her account.' Includes a form for account opening with fields for Name, Address, Town, County, Postcode, Telephone, and a coupon to request a brochure.

Advertisement for a cover story: 'More than a month after the TWA Boeing 747 dropped out of the sky, one disconcerting fact is emerging from the white noise of salvage news and speculation: investigators are not much closer to establishing the cause of the disaster. Ian Katz C2 cover story'.

News in brief

Teacher jailed for fondling girls

A TEACHER accused of sexually assaulting four of his female pupils in their classrooms was found guilty yesterday and sentenced to 12 months in prison. Christopher Keeton, aged 32, former head of chemistry at North Chadderton high school, Oldham, Lancashire, was convicted of seven indecent assaults on four girls.

Death coach charges

THE coach driver involved in a crash in Wales in which 10 people died last year is to be charged with 10 counts of causing death by dangerous driving, the Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday. The operator faces four charges.

Police seize cannons

POLICE are investigating the salvaging of two 17th century Dutch cannons which were discovered hidden in a house in Beadnell, Northumberland. They were called in to investigate the circumstances in which the cannons - taken from the wreck of a Dutch warship - were lifted from their resting place off Gun Rock, on one of the Farne Islands, off Bamburgh.

Airport baby to be adopted

A NEWBORN boy dumped in a Heathrow airport nappy bin in February is to be adopted soon, a spokesman for Hillingdon social services, in west London, announced yesterday. Yankov Wise said his new parents would be chosen from previously-approved potential adoptive parents.

Garsington Opera

ON August 9 the Guardian reported a ruling by the Local Government Ombudsman that five residents of Garsington, Oxfordshire, should each receive £200 compensation and stated that this was for "noise pollution" caused by an open air opera. We have been asked to make clear that the compensation is for maladministration by South Oxfordshire district council in ignoring sound-proofing restrictions, and is to be paid by the council, not by Garsington Opera.



A policeman seeks help from the public in the search for Jodi and Tom Loughlin, aged six and four, who went missing on Sunday on a Norfolk beach. PHOTOGRAPH: JASON MITCHELL

Search for children widens

Vivek Chaudhary on the disappearance of a brother and sister from a crowded beach 'ideal for a quiet family holiday'

FROM the edge of the sand dunes, its end can barely be seen on a cloudy day amid the mist and sea spray. As flat as a murky brown pancake stretching endlessly into the horizon, the beach at Holme next the Sea, Norfolk, is, according to residents, an ideal place for a quiet family holiday away from the hectic fairgrounds and amusement arcades of neighbouring Hunstanton.

Jodi and Tom went missing on Sunday moments after arriving on Holme beach with their parents, Kevin Loughlin and Lynette Thornton, of south London. With hordes of holidaymakers on the beach, the two children were last seen by their parents at 5:30 pm running towards the sea. After searching for them for two hours they alerted police, who have been scouring the area since.

Police yesterday that teams of volunteers and specialist search teams would continue to scour coastal and inland areas. Up to 50 people are involved in the search, using sniffer dogs and thermal imaging equipment. Superintendent John Hale of Norfolk constabulary said: "We have been concentrating our search along the beach and in houses, buildings and outhouses. We now plan to move the search a further two miles inland."

however, the dangers of Norfolk's flat coastline and turbulent waters are well known, but many believe they should be made public to the visitors who flock to the area every year.

Julie, a local resident who has two children aged under 10, said: "I don't think parents in this village are that worried, but of course we are all deeply shocked by what's happened. We see the dangers of the sea all the time. The tide is very strong and the coastline is littered with creeks, sand dunes and sand banks. You can get stranded because the tide comes in very quickly. People who come from outside don't really appreciate that, it's the same as we can't really appreciate the dangers in towns and cities."

Barrister defends covert videoing of 'sexy' princess in top store

PRINCESS Diana and other women had no right to complain if they appeared provocatively dressed in public and men took pictures of them, a court was told yesterday.

Less than a week after the princess gained an injunction against a photographer, barrister Jacques Samuel told Southwark crown court in south London that criticism of men who took photographs or video footage of women in sexy clothes, even if without their knowledge, was unfounded.

who took the video would be unfounded. Mr Archer, who resigned from Harvey Nichols in 1994 over an unrelated matter, denies making the tapes, which were discovered in his desk. Police were called but it was decided no offence had been committed.

Earlier, Mark Milliken-Smith, defending, told the court that the theft charges, which involved two rugs, two walkie-talkies, a tapestry border and a footstool appeared to have been investigated by Mr Archer's common-law wife, Susan, after they separated last year. There had been undue delay, and the prosecution and police had made mistakes. It was also possible that Mrs Archer, a prosecution witness, had

DNA test results clear five boys on trip with murdered schoolgirl

SOLICITORS acting for five boys who travelled to France with the murdered Cornish schoolgirl, Caroline Dickinson, spoke yesterday of the boys' feeling of "almighty relief" after DNA samples they had provided to police were shown to be negative.

Results of the tests were made public last night a day after the boys, aged between 12 and 14, voluntarily gave samples to the team of British and French detectives investigating the 13-year-old's death. Carling was raped and suffocated four weeks ago while staying at a youth hostel in the Brittany town of Pleine Fougères with a party of 38 children and five adults from Launceston College.

Labour fights shy of royal Way Ahead Group reforms

A FUTURE Labour government would not permit effective "privatisation" of the monarchy by allowing the Queen to trade her Civil List payments for the revenues of the Crown Estate.

A Blair-led government already committed to constitutional reform - including devolution and ending hereditary voting rights in the Lords - would not welcome further controversy, and the Queen is committed to acting only by consensus. After this week's revelation that the royal family's Way Ahead Group is considering reform options, opinion on Labour's front and back benches looks united in its desire to retain the limited parliamentary accountability financial control provides.

Advertisement for Alliance & Leicester bank. It features a central image of several bottles of wine or beer on a tray. The text promotes switching to their bank for £30 drinks vouchers. It includes contact information: 0500 95 95 95, and a form to request more information. The bottom of the ad features logos for 'The Resher Bottoms Up' and 'World of Wine'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or a note.

# Cost delays moves on air pollution

Paul Brown  
Environment Correspondent

**P**EOPLE are being killed by air pollution from traffic and particularly diesel engines, the Government will officially admit today when it presents a new set of much tighter air quality targets.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, will announce maximum concentrations for eight known pollutants which cause cancer or restrict lung function.

They are benzene, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particles, sulphur dioxide and 1,3 Butadiene (an organic compound given off by petrol, which gives it its smell).

The long overdue Air Quality Strategy follows months of consultation between Mr Gummer, his allies at the Department of Health and opponents at the Treasury and Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Gummer won the battle to introduce the tighter limits recommended by his own panel of experts — but lost the economic argument as the DTI feared traffic restrictions might damage the economy.

As a compromise Mr Gummer has put off achieving the new targets until 2005. In the interim he has given local authorities powers to act when pollution gets too high, possibly by closing roads and stopping traffic. In practice, though, this is unlikely to be effective.

According to Mr Gummer's own experts, the statistics show that by postponing action he is accepting thousands will die prematurely.

In November he was told by his expert panel on air quality standards that up to 95 people a day were dying as a result of minute particles in air, mostly from vehicle exhausts and the majority from diesel engines.

There is no safe limit for PM 10s — particulate matter

less than 10 microns in diameter (a micron is a millionth of a metre) — but the experts recommended 50 parts per billion in air and that has been accepted by Mr Gummer.

The problem for him is that around 80 per cent of buses and lorries now exceed emission levels required to meet these stringent standards.

From April, each local authority will have to produce an air quality strategy involving measuring pollution levels and evolving schemes to bring them below the target.

The problem is that local authorities will have no extra funds or control over motorways where many of the problems are produced.

Perhaps the best example is the ozone pollution in the last few days. The Government's existing standard is 90 parts per billion over a one hour period, a figure rarely exceeded. The new standard is 50 parts per billion over an eight hour period, which means the whole country has been suffering a pollution episode in the last few days — and local authorities would be unable to solve that problem.

For many of the pollutants the Government is counting on the European Commission to come up with new measures to control exhaust emissions to meet its 2005 deadlines for the eight substances.

The National Society for Clean Air welcomed the new standards as a milestone in air pollution control — but said decisive government action was required if they were to be met by 2005. Local authorities could not solve the problem on their own.

Michael Meacher, Labour's environment spokesman, said the measures were "a little too late" and claimed the pollution was caused by transport chaos inflicted by 17 years of decline in public transport and unregulated promotion of car use under the Tory government.

## Guardian writers profile six of the life peers whose appointment was announced today



Maurice Saatchi, whose elevation to the House of Lords underlines the position of today's marketing men at the centre stage of politics

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

# New Lord Saatchi ready for the attack

## Maurice Saatchi

Michael White  
Political Editor

**M**AURICE Saatchi is not the first advertising guru to reach the red leather benches of the House of Lords, nor the first clever son of immigrant Jewish parents to make the same journey. But Rothschilds and Disraelis apart, his name must be the best known.

In the mid-1980s Saatchi & Saatchi, the firm he founded with his older brother Charles — they are now aged 53 and 50 — became the biggest ad agency in the world, only to stumble in a shareholder-driven coup which ousted them in 1995.

More than that, they had been associated with creating the astonishing global phenomenon that was Margaret Thatcher in her prime, and became both rich and famous in the process — rich enough after the 1992 election campaign not to press for payment of a £1 million Tory party debt.

Unlike Lady Thatcher, the Saatchis bounced back from their own defeat. M & C Saatchi won key contracts — like British Airways — from

strategy," one colleague explains. "He asks 'What is the message?' and makes things simple and clear, but he leaves the creative detail to others."

As such Maurice Saatchi, who is married to the novelist Josephine Hart, is the driving force behind the controversial New Labour, New Danger campaign, with its crude play on naked fear of what a Labour government could mean.

Labour campaign strategists regard this as a new low in negative advertising, imported from the US and based

not on policy differences or values, but on personal attack — in this case the demonising of Tony Blair, Labour's chief asset.

In reality it is never quite that simple. Though parties of the right have pioneered such techniques throughout the 20th century — chiefly because they work as even the much-abused satanic Blair may eventually work — Labour and even the Liberal Democrats and defunct SDP have also dabbled.

In the 1970 campaign, which Harold Wilson unexpectedly lost to Ted Heath, it

was Labour's Yesterday's Men — puppet figures of leading Tories — which caused controversy. Though not in the demon eyes league, it did not prevent a seat in the House of Lords going to Peter Lovell-Davis, the Wilsonite newspaper man who helped dream it up. He is still there, ready to greet Lords Saatchi and Gummer.

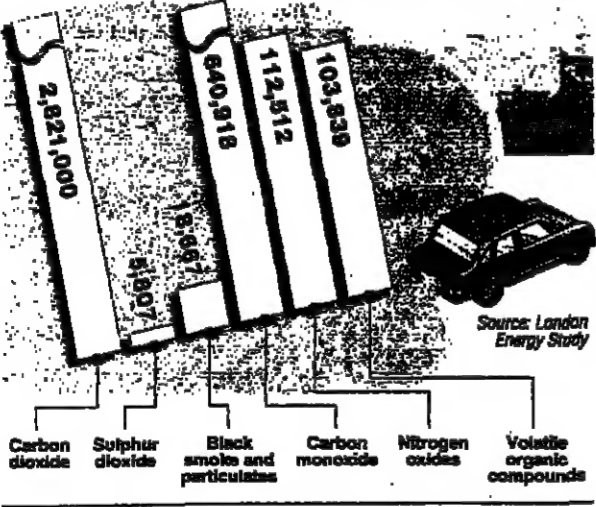
What has changed in the intervening years, as today's double peerage underlines, is the way in which the marketing men have moved from the fringe to the centre stage of politics.

Labour will complain at blatant patronage, but is swayed by similar disciplines. Maurice Saatchi, currently on holiday, likes to say that he no longer wants to run the world's biggest agency. "We've done that. Our ambition is to be the most sought-after." A fifth, improbable, victory for John Major would boost that prospect. With the stakes so high, scruples may decline.

"Maurice is really very humble, you can tell him when he's wrong," says one admirer. We shall see.

## In your face

An average car emits about four times its own weight in carbon dioxide every year, and that's not all. Graph below shows total annual emissions for all road traffic in London, in tonnes



# Youth unemployment is down to laziness. Whose?

A staggering one third of Britain's unemployed are under 25. Is somebody not doing their job? To find out who's doing what and who's not, join us at our evening debate on 4th September in London SW1. Speakers include Peter Kilfoyle MP, Tony Webb, CBI, Brendan Barber, TUC and Chair, Martin Bashir of BBC TV. For details, and to reserve your free seat, call Elaine Sedgwick on 0171 837 4299.

Richard Rogers  
Liz Symons  
Peter Gummer  
John Taylor  
John Alderdice

## Richard Rogers

**W**HEN he accepted his knighthood, Richard Rogers's 86-year-old mother was furious that her rebel son was joining the establishment. But even with a peerage, he will still do his best to stir things up. Born in Italy in 1913 to English parents, he came to Britain in 1939.

After an education complicated by dyslexia — he was categorised as lazy — he left school at 16, but studied architecture in London after finishing his National Service. His break came when he won the competition to design the Pompidou Centre in Paris. It attracts more visitors than the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. His other biggie is the Lloyd's building in London, and more recently he designed the Channel 4 building, also in London.

He has an erratic memory and a tendency to ramble around a subject. But pin him down on one of his pet themes — the future of London, for example — and he shines.

— Dan Glaister

## Liz Symons

**F**OR almost a decade Liz Symons has been one of the brightest and best known names in the TUC, and at 45 she is still one of the youngest.

She leads the First Division Association, which looks after the Civil Service from senior ranks up to permanent secretary level.

With 10,000 members the association is not large, but it has always been listened to because of its membership. Ms Symons's flock consists of 20 per cent women. She is still waiting for the first woman permanent secretary.

Her job gives her considerably more prominence than if she had stuck to a bill drafting team at the Environment Department. Her rise in the Labour movement began when she joined the tax officials' union as a junior official.

She was educated at Putney high school and Girton, where she read history. Half way through PhD research into the politics of pre-civil war Sussex, she abandoned academia for Whitehall.

— Keith Harper

## Peter Gummer

**T**HINGS are changing in the Gummer family. Peter, for so long known as "brother of John Selwyn Gummer", is starting to attract more attention than his beef-eating sibling. His life peacocks nearly coincides with his move to the Royal Opera House, where he takes over as chairman next month. At a time of change, his profile will be high. He is something of an open ant, and claims to have been to Covent Garden almost once a week since the 1960s.

Born in 1942, he studied at King's School, Rochester, and Selwyn College, Cambridge, before going into business.

He has worked on a number of quangos, the most controversial job being his position as head of the Arts Council's National Lottery Advisory Panel, which advised the Arts Council to give an initial £30 million to the Royal Opera House for its redevelopment. His other unpaid job is to help dream up Tory advertising.

— Dan Glaister

## John Taylor

**"W**HEN life gives you a lemon, you make it into lemonade," the irrepressible harrister John Taylor said yesterday after hearing that he is to become the first black Conservative peer.

He capped it with a joke about his late father, a Jamaican taxi driver who emigrated and played professional cricket for Warwickshire. "It was always his ambition that I should go to Lords, albeit to play cricket."

It has not always been so larky for the co-president of BBC2's The Street, practising London lawyer and former Home Office speech writer.

When he was selected as Tory candidate for Cheltenham in 1991, a grassroots revolt erupted in favour of what some called "a local man" and against what was denounced as "a bloody nigger". He fought on, but the late Charles Irving's 4,996 majority became a 1,658 lead for Liberal Democrat Nigel Jones.

In the Lords, Mr Taylor will specialise in legal and broadcasting matters.

— Michael White

## John Alderdice

**T**HE ALLIANCE Party of Northern Ireland has finally gained a voice at Westminster with the peerage granted to its leader, John Alderdice, today on the nomination of Paddy Ashdown.

He gains a steady third of the vote in his East Belfast constituency and his party a tenth of the vote in Northern Ireland — as much as Sinn Fein. He will speak in the Lords as leader of the Alliance Party on Northern Ireland and take the Liberal Democrat whip on wider British issues.

Since taking over his party in 1987, aged 32, Dr Alderdice has been a passionate advocate of partnership in Northern Ireland and a critic of the "not an inch" mentality of unionists and nationalists.

He gained a seat on the Northern Ireland Forum and has played a key role in the peace process. The son of a Presbyterian minister, he is the first Protestant to lead the Alliance since just after its inception in 1972.

— Martin Linton

## £1m deficit forces Grampian police to plead for extra cash to stave off insolvency

Ireland Clouston

**T**HE police force which, among other things, guards the holidaying royal family and most oil and gas fields is only a few months away from insolvency.

The convener of the Grampian joint police board warned yesterday that a projected £1.1 million deficit would leave little or no money for the force's wage bill from January onwards.

Grampian, responsible for 3,500 square miles of north-east Scotland, including the Queen's Balmoral estate, is to appeal to the Scottish Office for help with the crisis, ironically compounded by the £500,000 cost of policing this year's Scottish Conservative conference in Aberdeen.

Jürgen Thomaneck, convener of the board, which covers the authorities of Aber-

deen, Perth, Moray and Moray, blamed inadequate government funding for the shortfall. Efforts to "highlight the situation" had been ignored, he said yesterday, after the Grampian chief constable, Ian Oliver, delivered a gloomy assessment of his force's condition.

Grampian's £50 million budget for 1996/97 has already obliged Mr Oliver to impose cuts worth £2.3 million.

The force is 30 short of its establishment figure of 1,178, and Mr Oliver warned that the expected retirement of 18 officers would "prejudice the whole operation of the force".

In the past few months the budget has had to cope with a 3.5 per cent police pay award, the £127,650 cost of policing a drain on local police funds — and the burden of protecting the Tory conference.

The joint board is to ask the Scottish Office to meet at least £700,000 cost of the travellers and Conservative operations.

There is resentment that the conference was classified as regional — and therefore a drain on local police funds — rather than national, when

the bulk of the expense went on protecting national figures. Dorset police will receive an additional £1.5 million of government funds for the Tory conference in Bournemouth in October.

The reorganisation of Scottish local government has made police finances particu-

larly vulnerable to unexpected events. The new independent boards which oversee the eight forces have not had time to build up contingency funds.

The Scottish Office said any points the Grampian board put forward would be considered.

THE ESPIO 160 QUATTRO. THE WORLD'S LONG

You don't need luck, you

How long will it be before Alan Shearer shares a stamp with the diminutive head of the Sovereign? Julian Critchley

Major Buyoya seeks an end to the blockade in a shake-up to show serious reform of the Tutsi military

# Burundi strongman sacks army chiefs

Chris McGreal  
in Bujumbura

**B**URUNDI'S military leader yesterday sought to win a relaxation of international sanctions and raise his credibility at home by dismissing three controversial senior military officers, including the army chief of staff implicated in the assassination of the country's first Hutu president.

Burundi's neighbours to call off a blockade which has shut down most of its trade, brought fuel rationing and left the country isolated. Nor is it likely to persuade Hutus ousted from office by Maj Buyoya that he is interested in ending the Tutsi monopoly on power.

Maj Buyoya overthrew Burundi's divided civilian government three weeks ago, promising to end the climate of impunity that has allowed the military to kill almost unchecked. Critics said then a crucial test would be his response to a United Nations report which concluded that senior army officers were responsible for the assassination of President Melchior Ndayizeye three years ago, and for the subsequent slaughter of Hutus.

The report singled out the army chief of staff, Colonel Jean Bikomagu, for particular criticism. Col Bikomagu was among those dismissed yesterday, but the army has yet to say whether he faces prosecution.

Maj Buyoya's spokesman, Jean-Luc Ndirweye, said the shake-up was to demonstrate that Burundi's new military leader is in control. But Maj Buyoya will also have moved to reassure a strong extremist faction in the army that the dismissals are not the start of a purge or full-scale reform that could threaten the shape of the military. Much of the minority Tutsi population views the army as its sole guarantee of security.

While small-scale smuggling continues to flourish, almost no significant deliveries have crossed the Tanzanian border since sanctions were imposed. Crucial fuel deliveries have been cut, forcing the government to reduce the working day and introduce petrol rationing. Car queues at petrol pumps grow longer each day, the cost of transport has risen sharply and the prices of some essentials have tripled.

## News in brief

### FBI expands global role

THE United States Federal Bureau of Investigation plans to nearly double the number of its agents abroad in the next four years by opening offices in a further 23 foreign cities. The move is in response to what the FBI claims is a dramatic expansion in international terrorism, organised crime and narcotics trafficking affecting US citizens.

### Budget cuts anger Aborigines

AUSTRALIA'S new conservative government yesterday unveiled a 1996/97 budget containing sweeping spending cuts despite continuing violent street protests.

### India holds firm on test ban

THE United States and its allies denounced India after New Delhi yesterday rejected the nuclear test ban treaty from being adopted in Geneva. The countries have promised to bring the pact to the United Nations General Assembly for signature.

### Bomb suspect passes lie test

THE Olympic bomb suspect Richard Jewell passed a lie detector test in which he denied involvement in the blast on July 27, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported yesterday.

### 1,000 troops exposed to sarin

THE Pentagon has admitted that up to 1,100 United States soldiers may have been exposed to sarin nerve gas when army engineers blew up at least seven tons of the Iraqi toxin at the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

### Suu Kyi officials jailed

A PERSONAL assistant to the Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and two other party members have been sentenced to seven years in prison by the military government, National League for Democracy (NLD) sources said yesterday.



A boy in Zenica rides past a pile of water melons for sale and a wall plastered with electoral propaganda for Bosnia's first post-war national polls, due to take place on September 14. PHOTOGRAPH: HIDA/REUTERS

### Dutch towns take pot luck

AFTER decades of tolerating marijuana sales in local coffee shops, some Dutch towns have decided to move into the soft drugs business themselves.

## Riot police end Seoul campus occupation

Andrew Higgins  
in Hong Kong

**T**HOUSANDS of battle-scarred students closed South Korea's detention camps yesterday after riot police stormed the campus stronghold of protesters demanding that United States troops withdraw and the divided peninsula be reunified.

### Colonial relic to bite dust

**S**OUTH KOREA began demolishing Seoul's blue-domed capitol building yesterday in an attempt to erase memories of Japanese rule of the Korean peninsula.



A South Korean riot policeman shields himself from a burning barricade during the storming of Yonsei University

The assault, in which more than 1,000 police and students were injured, was a bloody showdown to what began as a peaceful three-day festival calling for unification. The authorities outlawed the gathering and blocked a planned march towards the heavily militarised barracks that ringed the peninsula since the 1950-53 Korean war.

## Tamil Nadu writes a new scenario for the premier who fell from grace

Suzanne Goldenberg  
in Madras

**S**HE has lost her kingdom and, facing corruption charges, is fighting for her liberty. Her closest allies have turned against her. But J. Jayalalitha, who until recently ran the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu with an iron hand, is undaunted.

all the people responsible for the misdeeds of the past. That is why people voted for us. There is no witch-hunt," said Muralidharan, the federal industry minister, who plays a key role in state politics.

"Money allocated to combat poverty has been taken away. That is the worst kind of crime; it is systematic looting."

She held out little sympathy for Ms Sasikala, who is charged with violating foreign exchange controls, from whom she was once inseparable, and who is widely said to have acted as her fixer.

Formerly known as Amma (mother) or the Queen of Progress, the former movie star, was chief minister for five years. Her rule collapsed at the May elections, to accusations of rampant corruption and violent repression of political opponents.

The new government established by M. Karunanidhi, a former screenwriter, has done little but comb the files for evidence to put Ms Jayalalitha and her cronies in jail.

Ms Jayalalitha has also bid adieu in the past two months to four leading members of her party who want to make her pay for the way she acted.

Ms Jayalalitha has also bid adieu in the past two months to four leading members of her party who want to make her pay for the way she acted.

Screen Derek Malcolm reviews the latest film releases every Thursday in **The Guardian**



**'My political enemies can't bear the thought of women having so much power'**  
J. Jayalalitha

away, so does it mean I should go to prison to satisfy the sadistic impulses of Karunanidhi and company?"

Ms Jayalalitha says trust in the system was her undoing. "Many of the ministers in my cabinet had become very arrogant. They had forgotten that they were there to represent the people. There was a campaign of dis-information a conspiracy to keep me in the dark about what was happening all around me."



A scuba diver investigates a bust of Lenin at an underwater museum of communist monuments at the Russian Black Sea resort of Cape Tarkhankut. Divers created the display

## Narcotics use soars among US teenagers

Martin Walker in Washington

**A** DRAMATIC increase in drug use by American teenagers was reported by the US department of health and human services yesterday — a rise of 78 per cent between 1992 and 1995. In 1993-94 alone, there was a 33 per cent increase among 12- to 17-year-olds. That was the year President Bill Clinton cut the budget of the Office of National Drug Control Policy by 80 per cent.

The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, involving 18,000 teenagers, found that drug use of all kinds had risen by 78 per cent since Mr Clinton became president. In 1994-95 use of LSD rose 54 per cent and cocaine 166 per cent — though fewer than 1 per cent of teenagers use cocaine. Marijuana use rose 37 per cent.

Some experts believe people of the baby-boom generation are not sufficiently responsible parents to warn their children off drugs. "We have a generation of parents who have a difficult time talking to their kids about drugs, since 57 per cent of them used drugs in the 1960s," said James Cople, of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions.

Another report released yesterday, from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, showed a sharp rise in the number of people going to hospital casualty departments complaining of drug overdoses. Cocaine cases rose 19 per cent, heroin cases 58 per cent and — the figure that has raised eye-

brows — marijuana cases 96 per cent.

Alan St Pierre, of the National Organisation to Reform the Marijuana Laws (NORML), dismissed this as "ridiculous". "Less than 0.0001 per cent of emergency-room [casualty] visits show patients complaining of marijuana use only. What happens is that people arrive in the emergency room, a urine sample is taken, and cannabis traces can be found 40 to 60 days after use, so it shows up in the computerised statistics as marijuana-related."

Senator Orrin Hatch, chairman of the judiciary committee, said: "The statistics confirm an upward spiral of drug abuse across the nation since President Clinton took office. This administration is letting down our young people."

The White House blamed the Republican Congress for slashing funds for the anti-drug community-based drug programmes from \$550 million (\$365 million) to \$195 million. "They cut the heart out of the one programme we had that was really working in the communities, getting people off drugs and keeping them off," a spokesman said.

The presidential spokesman, Mike McCurry, added: "The one thing we can't do is to turn drug use among young people into a political football because that is the wrong message for kids."

But the Republican challenger, Bob Dole, said: "This is nothing short of a national tragedy. Starting next 19 per cent, heroin cases 58 per cent and — the figure that has raised eye-

## Time runs out for Grozny

James Meek in Moscow

**W**ITH the hours ticking away before a potentially horrific escalation of the battle for the Chechen capital Grozny, Russia's security council secretary, General Alexander Lebed, yesterday cast fresh doubts over who is running Russia by accusing unnamed forces of falsifying instructions from President Boris Yeltsin.

As thousands of refugees fled Grozny in the face of a leave-or-die ultimatum from the local Russian military commander, Mr Yeltsin's press service denied for the second day running reports that the president was receiving urgent heart treatment.

Gen Lebed was said by Itar-Tass news agency to be planning to fly to Grozny today to prevent the conflict escalating in the face of defiance by Russian field commanders. They appear to be set on reducing the city and any remaining civilians to ashes in an attack they say could take a month.

Last night the notoriously ruthless General Vycheslav Tikhomirov returned to Chechnya to take command of federal forces from his deputy, General Konstantin Pulikovskiy. On Monday Gen Pulikovskiy warned civilians to leave Grozny within 48 hours or face unlimited warfare from Russian troops, aircraft, artillery and rockets.

Gen Tikhomirov said last night he had no plans to cancel the ultimatum.

Gen Lebed's press spokesman, Alexander Barkhatov, said yesterday: "Alexander Lebed has no connection with anything said or done by Pulikovskiy."

Yet Gen Lebed has supposedly been given full authority over federal troops in Chechnya.

Earlier, Mr Barkhatov faxed a statement to news agencies saying that contradictory instructions on Chechnya supposedly given to Gen Lebed by Mr Yeltsin on Monday had not actually been signed by the president. The document bore only a facsimile of his signature.

The statement said the document "gave considerable grounds for doubt" that the Russian leader "personally took part in the final editing of the text".

The alleged instructions, detailed at a press conference on Monday by the president's press spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembskiy, ordered Gen Lebed to clear Grozny of separatist forces, who took over the city on August 6. But they also ordered him to ensure all Russian forces were pulled out of the republic by September 1.

Mr Yastrzhembskiy yesterday dismissed Gen Lebed's doubts and denied a report on the Echo Moskvy radio station that Mr Yeltsin was receiving urgent heart treatment.

The president has not been seen in public since his brief, wooden inauguration appearance on August 9, and his press clips of his meeting officials have been rare. There have been contradictory

reports about his recent whereabouts, with some officials saying he was in the Kremlin, others that he was at a dacha. Yesterday, he was said to have travelled to the resort of Valdai, north-west of Moscow, for two days "to see whether it would be possible to spend his latest holiday there".

If Gen Lebed's doubts about Mr Yeltsin's involvement in the Chechnya instructions are valid, it is hard to know who might be acting in the president's name.

The Russian leader's head of administration, Anatoly Chubais, is on holiday. His former bodyguard and confidant, Alexander Korzhakov, has been fired. His other close aide, Victor Ilyushin, has joined the government — add-

ing to speculation that the real reins of power are being wielded by the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Russian helicopters dropped leaflets on Grozny yesterday, warning civilians to leave. Christopher Besse, the head of a British aid agency working in Chechnya, Merlin, said that he did not believe all civilians would be able to get out in time.

"Grozny is facing a wholesale slaughter of innocent civilians who are trapped in a murderous crossfire between opposing armies," he said.

A car bomb yesterday killed the finance minister of the southern Russian region of Dagestan, which borders Chechnya, Itar-Tass said. The explosion happened in the capital Makhachkala.

## Belgians seek police advice in Europe

Stephen Bates in Brussels

**B**ELGIAN police launched an appeal for help to police forces throughout Europe yesterday following the revelations of child abduction, including the deaths of two eight-year-old girls, around the city of Charleroi in the south of the country.

The Belgian authorities approached British forces with experience of similar investigations and police in Germany, Holland and the Czech Republic, in calls co-ordinated by Interpol.

Gloucestershire police confirmed that John Bennett, the officer in charge of the inquiry in the West case, had been approached for advice about excavating houses.

Police in Belgium have also stepped up the search for two teenagers, Ann Marchal, 19, and Stefje Lambrechts, 17, kidnapped near Ostend exactly a year ago, amid speculation that they may still be alive, but no longer in the country.



Lelièvre: Abduction and imprisonment charges



Nihoul: Charged with criminal association



Martin: Duroux's wife, charged as an accomplice

Files on missing children, dating back to the disappearance of 10-year-old Nathalie Gelsbrechts in 1991, have also been re-opened.

There are fears that the two teenagers may have been smuggled abroad for prostitution and killed by their captors to evade discovery.

Last night police in the Czech Republic, where it has been suggested Ann and Stefje might have been taken, de-

nied they could be in the country. Sources there said that paedophiles in eastern Europe have cheaper options than smuggling children from Belgium.

The Belgian police have been heavily criticised for failing to capture Marc Duroux earlier. The 38-year-old builder and electrician is accused of abducting and sexually abusing girls and allowing the two eight-year-olds to

starve to death in a cellar at his home.

The children, Melissa Russo and Julie Lejeune, are believed to have lived for nine months after their kidnap but died while Duroux was in custody for four months last winter. They will be buried after what is likely to be almost a state funeral in Liege Cathedral tomorrow.

Duroux, a known sex offender, and his lodger Michel

Lelièvre have been charged with abduction. Duroux's wife Michele Martin was charged on Monday with being an accomplice. A fourth suspect, Brussels estate agent Jean-Michel Nihoul, was formally charged with criminal association yesterday.

As details of Duroux's background have been revealed the profile of a sex offender has begun to emerge. His estranged family, who have apparently not seen him for more than 20 years, said they had asked the authorities not to release him from prison in 1992 after he had served only three years of a 13 and a half year sentence for abduction and rape.

Duroux's mother Jeanine told a Flemish newspaper: "Just like the parents of Julie and Melissa I cannot understand how they could have released him after what became clear in 1995."

His sister Valerie said: "It was known that he was a sick man. To me he is no longer human. I was scared to death by him."

### News in brief

#### Israel seized four Lebanese

Israel snatched four Lebanese residents from south Lebanon earlier this year and held them in Israel, according to a ruling by Israel's high court reported yesterday by Yedioth Achronoth newspaper. The Israeli newspaper said the high court had rejected the four unnamed men's appeals against their detention last month. — Reuter.

#### Judge robbed

Arthur Chaskalson, the president of South Africa's highest court, was robbed in his Johannesburg home on Monday night, police said yesterday. The intruders took his watch and wallet, a stereo and video machine before driving off in his car. — AP.

#### Hijack stand

Cuba demanded yesterday that the United States hand back four Cubans who hijacked planes to flee the island, saying failure to do so could jeopardise existing immigration accords between the two countries. — Reuter.

#### Storm force

Tropical storm Dolly reached hurricane strength yesterday just before it reached Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, weather forecasters said. Dolly is expected to approach the Texas-Mexico border tomorrow. — Reuter.

#### Actress inquest

The Los Angeles coroner's office was due to release toxicology results suggesting that the actress Margaux Hemingway committed suicide by drug overdose, a local television station KNBC-TV reported. — AP.

#### Universe U-turn

The reigning Miss Universe, Venezuela's Alicia Machado, will be allowed to keep the title even if she remains a few pounds overweight, Venezuelan beauty pageant officials said yesterday. — Reuter.

### Drug lord cites Fujimori aide

Jane Diaz-Lima in Lima

**G**OVERNMENT officials in Peru have closed ranks behind one of President Alberto Fujimori's closest advisers, accused by a former drug lord of taking pay-offs in return for information about anti-drug operations.

The drug trafficker, Demetrio Chavez, known as "El Vaticano", told a Lima court that he paid Vladimiro Montesinos, the strongman of the country's intelligence service and one of Mr Fujimori's most trusted aides, \$50,000 (\$24,400) a month between June 1991 and August 1992.

In return, Mr Chavez claimed, he was tipped off about army or police operations in the jungle area where he operated with his own airstrip.

This is the most serious allegation of drug trafficking links made against a member of the president's inner circle and has spurred top officials to defend Mr Montesinos.

A former lawyer and retired army captain, Mr Montesinos is considered the *eminent grise* of the Fujimori administration.

The president also tacitly backed his adviser by praising the work of the intelligence service in capturing drug traffickers.

The chief of police, the economy minister, the justice minister, the defence minister and the armed forces com-

mander-in-chief have all defended Mr Montesinos, saying the allegations are in revenge for his part in jailing drug traffickers. Blanca Nelida, who heads the prosecution service, called the allegations a "lie" on television, saying accusations from a person of El Vaticano's calibre should not be taken seriously.

The opposition is not so sure, suspecting that the government "doth protest too much". Henry Pease, a congress member, said the desperation of the government's defence of Mr Montesinos has convinced him that this is a corruption cover-up. The former president's aide and United Nations secretary-general Javier Pérez de Quélar has led calls for an investigation.

El Vaticano operated one of Peru's largest drug rings for some three years, before he was captured in Colombia in 1994. He was brought to Peru where, despite facing drug trafficking charges, he was submitted to a military tribunal, given an almost summary trial and charged with treason.

At the time of his trial, opposition members complained his case had been hijacked to a military court to prevent him revealing the names of those who had protected his drug activities. He is now being tried on drug trafficking charges in a civil court inside the prison.

## Syria warns that Netanyahu is intent on war

David Hirst in Beirut

**S**TATE-CONTROLLED Syrian newspapers said yesterday that Israel was preparing an "aggression" against Syria "for which it only remains to set the date".

It was Syria's clearest warning of possible war with Israel since Binayamin Netanyahu and his rightwing Likud came to power in Israel in May.

Ever since Mr Netanyahu was elected prime minister, Syria has repeatedly said he was all but destroying the peace process by his rejection of "land for peace". Now Da-

mascus seems persuaded that Syria is the target of a campaign of threats and intimidation intended to make it choose between a military collision over Lebanon and a return to negotiations on Mr Netanyahu's intransigent terms.

This is now the standard Lebanese interpretation of Mr Netanyahu's "Lebanon first" proposal, under which Israel would withdraw from south Lebanon in return for the dismantling of the Hizbullah militia and its accompanying rhetoric.

The Damascus newspaper al-Thaurah said: "Netanyahu is furiously bringing grist to the mill of his escalation and

aggressiveness, as if he really is preparing for an attack for which it only remains to set the date."

It made much of a commentary by a leading Israeli strategist, who wrote in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz last week: "As long as the Netanyahu government intends to continue its present policy towards Syria, it must prepare the Israeli army and citizens for war in the not too distant future."

Al-Thaurah called on the international community to "restrain Netanyahu before he embarks on new adventures which will bring only destruction and desolation". But it added: "Syria is

ready for any eventualities that Israel has in store for it."

Last month the Syrian chief of staff, Hikmet Shehahi, spoke of Syria's "military option" against Israel. Beirut commentators note that the warnings voiced by Mr Netanyahu, his ministers and army commanders are, as a rule, not only more menacing in tone than those of the previous Labour government but come almost daily, and are increasingly directed at Syria as well as Hizbullah.

On his first visit to the south Lebanon "security zone", Mr Netanyahu said on Monday that recurring attacks on Israeli soldiers and their Lebanese allies would

cause an escalation which would be "very painful for the Lebanese".

The defence minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, said last week: "All foreign forces need to withdraw from Lebanon [but] the Syrians don't want to withdraw." He added that Lebanon "or anyone on its soil" would not "come out cleanly" from any attack on Israel or its Lebanese allies.

This was seen in Beirut as the clearest Israeli threat to date. Israel carried out a successful test launch of its Arrow 3 anti-missile missile yesterday, a spokeswoman for Israel Aircraft Industries said.

Politics without invective is as appealing as alcohol-free lager, or pleasure-free sex. Ignore those pious MPs who grumble that "negative campaigning" obscures the issues: they are talking hogwash. We need some below-the-belt political insults.

Francis Wheen G2 page 7

I'm all for bringing back the birch, but only between consenting adults. CORE MEDIA

Chasing the wrong target
Child prostitutes need protection, not punishment

CHILD prostitution is something which is supposed to happen in Bangkok, not Bradford. Like the Victorian era when child prostitution was rampant, modern Britain has been good at averting its gaze. Some readers may want to dismiss Maggie O'Kane's harrowing account of a child prostitute in today's paper as a one-off, an isolated criminal act not a deep-seated systemic problem. But her account coincides with the publication of a Barnardos report on the stark life of 45 child prostitutes in Bradford. Many were lured into the trade by young pimps but then forced to continue the practice. The Barnardos report follows last year's pioneering work by the Children's Society, which showed in a four-year period 1,500 young women under 18 were convicted of offences relating to prostitution and 1,800 cautioned. A 10-year-old was among those cautioned and four 12-year-olds among those convicted. No one knows how many child prostitutes there are in the UK, but child specialists believe it could be as high as 5,000. About 98,000 young people run away from home — or care — every year. Almost half are not reported missing. When the Children's Society opened Britain's first safe house for runaways in 1965, seven per cent of the 500 who used it said they had been involved in prostitution. They believed they had no other choice. Without money, food or shelter, selling sex was the one way they were able to survive. About 30 per cent were already victims of sexual abuse. Yet instead of being seen as victims requiring protection, far too many are still treated as criminals in need of punishment. Our current double standards in dealing with the problem might even make the Victorians blush. Any man who tried to have sex with an under-aged child in his house could expect to be investigated by police and social ser-

vices. But if he goes down the road and pays £20 to a child prostitute, he will be relatively immune. Like the officers interviewed yesterday on the BBC's Today programme, the police excuse clients on the grounds the girls looked older than their true age. There are further contradictions: a 15-year-old is too young to have sex lawfully, but can be prosecuted for offering it. A regrettable, when campaigners ask "A man has sex with a 12-year-old prostitute — who should pay for it?" the current answer is, not the pimp or the client. They both get away with far too much. Moreover, it is worth noting the seeming "respectability" of many of the clients, who in Bradford were reported by Barnardos to have jobs, nice cars and who go home to wives and families. They would be shocked to be given their proper label: paedophiles. What should be done? More facts are needed. Barnardos wants a parliamentary working party on child prostitution. Here would be a chance for the Home Affairs select committee to rehabilitate itself after its pathetic report on gun control. The police and social services need to pay more heed to the 1969 Children Act, under which they have a duty to protect those under 18 from "significant harm". It is pimps and clients who should be prosecuted, not child prostitutes. The Children's Society is right to be campaigning for the decriminalisation of child prostitution. They need protection, not punishment. It is no use ministers insisting, as they do, on parents taking more interest in their children: many of the children who end up as child prostitutes are already in care. We need more help for the single homeless, more special housing projects, plus the restoration of benefits to 17-year-olds. Above all, we need to re-educate men: having sex with children is wrong. Paying for it doesn't excuse it or make it proper.



Letters to the Editor

Hawks, doves and morality

COMMENTING ON ONE World Week's decision to focus their education pack on our act of disarming a Hawk aircraft destined for Indonesia, the children's work officer for the Church of England Board of Education says: "We need to teach children and young people that the law is not to be broken in any circumstances" (Church schemes under fire, August 17). In acquitting us, the jury accepted our argument that we had not broken the law as we had a lawful excuse for our actions. However, I am concerned at the Church's attitude that the law is not to be broken in any circumstances. Can I assume that the Church condemned civil rights activists breaking segregation laws in the American South? What about men in Germany who were shot for refusing to join the army under the Nazis — they were also breaking the law. Surely the Church's main concern should be morality: just because something is legal it is not necessarily moral. Slavery was once legal — would the Church suggest that it was wrong to oppose it? For me, the most fundamental Christian teaching, which must be upheld above all others, is "Thou shalt not kill". In trying to prevent the delivery of a lethal weapon to a genocidal regime we were upholding that most basic tenet and our action was therefore fully compatible with Christian teachings. Andrea Needham, Medical Director, East Timor Ploughshares, 1 Horse Street, Liverpool L5 5EL.

Money and the monarch

YOUR article about the royal finances (Survival) 210 million a year from the Civil List ought to be welcome news to the taxpayer. A number of once-noble families live satisfactorily on the income generated by farming their great estates and by opening them up for tourism. The Queen has made some headway here by charging people a great deal of money to amble through sections of Buckingham Palace. This is a sound business venture and were it extended to other castles and palaces, the royal family would become self-sufficient and no longer a charge on the rest of us. But Her Majesty has let it be known that she will graciously accept £25 million income from the Crown Estate instead. How charming of the royals to have worked out a system that actually increases their wealth at a time when everyone else is looking for savings to be made. John Thatcher, 194 Binley Road, Coventry CV5 1HG. I HAVE deep suspicions about the motives surrounding the proposed returning of the Crown Estate, including so much of the seabed and coastline of the UK to private, and somewhat greedy, ownership. Much amusing is the concept that "commons", such as seabed and coastline, were owned legitimately by the royal family before the Crown Estate existed. Who did they buy them from, for how much and was the transaction freely entered into? My late grandmother was born in Dyrham Park, Avon, now owned for the public by

Sir Frederick's apron strings

IT HAS been stated that Sir Frederick Crawford's membership of the Masons would have been "common knowledge" before his appointment as chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Authority. As one involved with the committee making his earlier appointment to Aston University, I can affirm that his masonic connections were not known to me, nor, I suspect, to most of the committee. In his defence it should be stated that his membership did not appear to have a discernible effect on his policy as vice-chancellor, but as a non-mason, I would not have noticed, would I? S E Hunt, Professor Emeritus, University of Aston, 8 Rock Hill Road, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 4DZ. ALL miscarriages of justice contain masonic connections. Masons will probably be among the trial judges and appeal judges. They will be among the lawyers preparing the case and the prosecuting team. The police investigators will certainly have masons in their team. Michal Higham (Please could you stop picking on us Masons, August 17) writes, "Sir Frederick will know that if a situation arises in which there is a minimal perception that Freemasonry might be involved, he must declare an interest and withdraw." Sir Frederick will be required to withdraw in every case. John Thompson, 23 West Street, Newport NP23 4DD. AS A long-standing Freemason and reader of your newspaper, I am saddened by your "elite Mason" headlines. Not only are you banging the same old conspiracy theory drum but the ritual vow you quote is factually inaccurate. In the Holy Royal Arch, lodges are known as chapters and brothers as companions. It is quite astonishing that you should make such an error of fact when I'm sure that some of your staff who are Freemasons would have put you right. E H Shepherd, 19 Moore Avenue, Thetford, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 2JN. MAY I suggest that the easiest way to avoid appointing a Freemason to chair a public body is to appoint a woman? Hilary Smith, The Bookshop, In-Shops Shopping Centre, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham DH3 3AY.

How to scale the Korean Wall

Harsh measures against the students are an anachronism

THE SIGHT of riot police doing pitched battle with thousands of students at Yonsei University does not mesh easily with South Korea's international image. In the age of Asian tigers, Seoul is committed to the goal of segyehwa — globalisation — and the building of a "borderless world". Yet the problem of the North-South border only a few dozen miles from Seoul continues to dominate its politics. Last week's national day address by President Kim Young-sam was entirely devoted to the theme of division. South Korea might have become the world's 11th largest economy, he said, and be able to win medals in Atlanta. Yet the Korean miracle would remain incomplete until the whole country could be reunited, creating a nation that "stands tall at the centre of the world". These are fine sentiments, but does Seoul really wish to see the barriers along the 38th parallel — the Berlin Wall of Asia — fall and the country become one? The students at Yonsei University have also been arguing in favour of unification, but they do not believe that the government has any serious intention of bridging the gap with the North. Mr Kim has accused them of putting Pyongyang's case for it and says they are a threat to national security. With the north beset by economic decline, floods and near-famine, and probably by internal dissension too, this may seem a strange moment for the students to choose. But the arrest so far this week of 5,500 protestors suggests that

they are not just being "duped by northern agents." Student protest may no longer attract the popular support which it once did in the 1980s during the struggle for democracy. But it does express, in an extreme form, the sense of national incompleteness felt by many Koreans, and it focuses attention upon the ambiguities of official policy towards the North. Mr Kim spoke last week of the need for peaceful cooperation with the North and a "practical" solution to the problem of division. Yet on Monday the South's armed forces launched a set of war games based on the unlikely theory that the North's difficulties may lead Pyongyang to attack the South whether openly or by terrorism. Also on Monday, the South Korean novelist Kim Hah-ki was arrested for breaking the South's national security law which bans all unauthorised contacts with the North. This was a Kafkaesque conclusion to a bizarre episode in which Mr Kim crossed into the North, apparently under the influence of alcohol, and was returned by Pyongyang after apologising for his "grave crime." The task now — admittedly a difficult one — should be to build new bridges to the North. Berlin is the wrong model: the last thing which President Kim wants is northern chaos and millions of refugees heading south. Harsh action against the students and anyone seeking contact is now an anachronism which sends entirely the wrong signal to the shaky regime in Pyongyang.

For services to the Tory party

How do new Lords Saatchi and Gummer enrich the House?

THE better things first: it will be good to have Richard Rogers in the Lords; we need people there who can talk cogently and from experience about the built environment. Also the sassy Liz Symons from the First Division Association of civil servants. And if few have heard of Meta Ramsey — a John Smith discovery — that could soon change. The bleak record of her career — HM Diplomatic Service 1969-91 — disguises the fact that she served in MI6 and was once tipped to head it. John Taylor, unacceptable to too many Cheltenham Tories four years ago because he wasn't local (ie he was black) gets some recompense for failing to win the seat at that election; disturbing, though, if he is taking the emine because he no longer expects nomination for a winnable Tory seat. But on what test precisely do Maurice Saatchi, leading adman, and Peter Gummer, leading PR man and brother

of the more famous John, qualify? What service have they done or will they do to the state that makes them right for seats in the Lords? We know what service they have done to the Tory Party, thank you: Maurice Saatchi goes all the way back to Britain Isn't Working, and with Gummer and Sir Tim Bell, all the way forward to New Labour, New Danger, and staring satanic eyes. As they're to be working peers, no one has to pretend they have been chosen in the national interest; which is just as well, since they'd only pass that test for those who equate the national interest with the Tory interest. But how very convenient, to be able to reward those who do your party's work — sometimes its dirty work — with a seat in the Lords! It isn't the first time: some of Harold Wilson's choices fell into this category. But this sort of thing doesn't do much for the House's reputation. Or for John Major's.

Picture show

WHO else sees the purchase of the painting by Guerino for £2 million for the National Galleries of Scotland as yet another contemptible misuse of public funds (Last ditch pledge rescues painting, August 15)? Such action arises from a ruinous Cartesian way of seeing, which asserts a stranglehold throughout society. This ideology splits reason (the senses, form/function, art/life etc). It promotes a stultifying art-for-art's-sake aestheticism, which divorces art from its socio-cultural, ideological context. It also bars development of a framework for judging, on inter-subjective, testable grounds, the real creative worth of our artefacts. When education, health and the environment are starved of cash, where is this lunatic acquisitiveness going to stop? Like an Easter Island proliferation of false gods, it is a vicious circle which will, unless checked, denude and bankrupt all. David Rodway, 11 Cumberland Street, London SW1V 4LS. WHILE I agree with the general thrust of Roy Greenslade's article about a decline in broadcast journalism because it mixes fact and fiction (Feeling a little off-colour, Media, August 19), he himself has fallen into the same trap. Contrary to Greenslade's insinuation about the Jinnah film, the finance is in place and pre-production has begun. I am not the producer, but the co-producer and co-writer of the film. Greenslade is sarcastic about my "high-minded" attempt to re-evaluate Mr Jinnah in an attempt to further understanding between Islam and the West. This is my field and I have written over 20 books on the subject. Akbar Ahmed, Fellow, Selwyn College, Cambridge CB3 9DQ.



A crisis of identity

WHY not let us choose which of our identity cards (Major to settle identity card row, August 19)? A three-tier system of up to three flags would enable an individual to identify, or not, with the European Union, the United Kingdom and/or its constituent nations. For example, a Scottish Nationalist European would select the flags of St Andrew and the EU stars, omitting the Union Jack. This would also encourage the English to differentiate between England, or Engerland, and the United Kingdom. Finally, it would provide an accurate and constant demographic test as to the strength of the British and European Unions in the feelings and beliefs of its people. "But why have flags on it at all?" says my missus. I agree. David Fine, 4 Pickford Villas, Monyash Road, Bahwell DE45 1FG.

God shop

MOST women are de-mighted when their partners undertake a supermarket food-shopping trip. But those of us who have read the history of Fleetwood Mac (Return from the far side, Review, August 19) should be having second thoughts on the matter. In 1971, guitarist Jeremy Spencer, claiming that he was "just popping out for some groceries," joined the Children of God religious cult in Los Angeles and wasn't seen again for two years. Fiona Hills, 58a North Hill, London N6 4RH.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk.

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: The path along the river through the willow ground and the alder carr in the southern woods was lined on both sides by an impenetrable green wall of Himalayan Balsam. Reaching a height of seven feet in places it was an imposing sight with row upon row of stout, thick-ribbed stems and a dazzling array of colours from the large helmet-shaped flowers — whites, reds and purples. Each plant was thronged by small bees which would disappear into the head of a flower, attracted by the nectar held in a short, thin spur, and re-appear coated white with pollen dust. I was nearly at the end of this balsam "tunnel" when a much larger flying insect approached to investigate; a southern hawkfly. This large assema dragonfly, well known for its inquisitive and approachable nature, hovered in front of me then turned and flew back down the path. It did this several times as I continued walking,

always hesitating long enough for me to make out the conspicuous green markings on its thorax and abdomen. Later on, over the small reservoir above the mill, I watched a better-known member of the same family — the brown hawkfly, complete with its diagnostic brown wing markings. This was a female, clasped to the exposed stem of submerged plant, with body arched and obviously busy laying her eggs. Out of the woodland, on to the edge of the valley, the flowering brambles were alive with butterflies — peacock, holly blue and especially painted lady. The unpainted lady invasion in early June had produced a new generation. There were hundreds on the brambles and every purple-flowered knapweed seemed to have its feeding butterfly. They were all in superbly fresh condition — the "paint" was hardly dry. J M THOMPSON

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.



Diary Matthew Norman

THE world of newspapers welcomes a new and vastly prolific correspondent. He is David-John Collins, and his name appears ever more frequently (in this paper and the Independent) above an address in Tunbridge Wells - aptly so, since he is always disgusted by all who disagree with the Labour leadership. Yesterday's Guardian letter was one of five (it would be too cynical to muse on orchestration) attacking Roy Hattersley for his lack of interest in Mandy Mandelson, of whom he wrote: "Labour is extremely fortunate to have someone of his ability, dedication and integrity..." Indeed, other recent letters from New Diagonised, New Tunbridge contain near-identical attacks on opponents of welfare reform, and of Jack Straw's toddler curfew. But who can he be, this high old bruiser? A disaffected Tory? A reformed Bennite? A victim, perhaps, of militant? Not quite. Would you believe it, it's a New Labour weenle Barely 22, and Fresh from university, Deejay is a Communist. A researcher for Coventry MP Jim Cunningham... and although it won't have crossed his mind, much more of this and he'll be talent-spotted by Mandy. We will be with his career with immense interest.

NO! magazine, Brandreth's Brainstorm moves on to a new plain of obtuseness. What, asks the MP for Chester, do TV stars Annela Rice, Jasper Carrott, and Sean Bean have in common? Thinking caps off, Giles! But here's one for you. Which of your fellow Tory MPs is justly regarded as your intellectual equal? (See below.)

YES, that's right, it's Dame Jill Knight!!! With her victory over a handgun ban fresh in the mind, we turn to About The House, the Edgbaston MP's political memoirs. A woman of myriad talents (her technical mastery of embroidery is famed), it is her tennis which will most intrigue the public. We begin with recollections from her first days at Westminster in 1966. "In those days," writes Dame Jill, "it was possible for me to park my car outside, and give the Night Porter a single to put in the parking meter at half past eight in the morning." How riveting... but, do go on. "By this means I was assured of legitimate parking up to 8.45am, by which time I needed to be out anyway..." Right, citizen, one day. Next time, we hear how Dame Jill coped when she once got a key stuck in the front door of her Lambeth house.

In the Daily Mail, the need for any constitutional reform of the monarchy has been dismissed in splendid style by no less an expert than sane and rational Paul Johnson himself. "Yes, Her Majesty has indeed seen the article," said a source close to the Queen yesterday. "and has taken note of Mr Johnson's argument. Accordingly, the relaunch has now been made a matter of even greater urgency..."

RAISE for Harold Brooks-Baker's Burke's Peerage World Book of... service continues to remind us of other mailing triumphs. Yesterday it was the motor manufacturer's mail shot (a Mr P Charles of Buckingham Palace was invited to "impress your neighbours" with a brand new Rover); today, we go back to just before the last general election, and a drive to recruit old-age pensioners. "Now that your workday life is time on your hands, you might think of beginning to take an interest in the Conservative party..." said a leaflet delivered to Mrs D Thatcher of Dulwich.

FOR chunky chums such as armed forces minister Fatty Cheatham or publishers Orton, a glimmer of hope comes from Houston, Texas. Pastor Terry Miller has devised a divine weight-loss programme, in which God - having been thanked for "the victory ahead" - is called upon to "be with us when we face that refrigerator..."

Royal role for the Prince of Darkness

Commentary Catherine Bennett

FOR the dedicated republican, this country's remarkable advances in academic excellence are a source of constant anxiety. With so many brains about, is there not a danger that, sooner or later, the royal family might run into one of them? Who knows but that one day, some beady young meritocrat may not be taken on the palace staff, even given an opportunity to advise the Windsors on public relations? The antics of the Way Ahead group suggest that such fears are, so far, unfounded. The Windsors prefer to make DIY improvements. Their survival-committee may seem like a radical splinter-group, but the modish occupation of thinking the unthinkable, but in composition it turns out to be no more than a family get-together, supplemented by a handful of old favourites. The Earl of Arundel (Eton, the Scots Guards) is not, I think, known for his radicalism, nor is Sir Robert Fellowes (Eton, the

Scots Guards), much acclaimed for the common touch. The demotic skills of Robin Janvyn were honed at the Foreign Office, while the principal asset of Commander Richard Aylard, the youngest and lowest-born of the four, is his "navy background". We are indebted to the Times for the information that "the Duke of Edinburgh is said to be a particularly active participant" in Way Ahead discussions. Prince Charles, however, is said to have set the agenda. This explains a lot. With the Duke of Edinburgh at the helm, Prince Charles doing the thinking, and Prince Edward advising on media-awareness, it is understandable that the group should have devised a survival strategy which pleases no one, and vexes almost everybody. With the accuracy we have come to expect, the royal family has taken careful aim, and shot itself unerringly in the foot. The group's goal, by all accounts, was preservation of the monarchy. In 1992, amid public disenchantment over barely tax-paying and serial marital catastrophes, the House of Windsor set about securing its future. Resignation, and a retreat into landed obscurity were probably not considered. As Burke said, those who have been once intoxicated with power, and have derived any kind of emolument from it, even though but for one year, can

never willingly abandon it." So, how could the public be mollified? What kind of sop would simultaneously placate the mob, confound republicans, and guarantee the wealth and status of the monarchy? The current scheme is majestically deficient in virtually every respect. For royalists, it gives too much away. Those of a mystic turn object that the severance of crown from Church would wantonly destroy the aura of sanctity which surrounds each institution, and rapidly de-hallow both. To radicals, the proposals are patently inadequate and self-serving. In exchange for modest modernisation, the Windsors believe they can retain all that is most undemocratic and unjustified: supreme constitutional powers, claimed by accident of birth. As for the Queen's subjects, they now know what most did not know before: that much of her "personal" wealth is not really hers, but ours. The proposal to live off the crown estate instead of the civil list is plainly a racket, a ruse, or as the Sun neatly put it, "Queen's \$34m jackpot". This was all quite unnecessary. Neither political party threatens the well-being of the monarchy, indeed the Labour front bench will flay any MP who dares to suggest that all is not for the best in this best of all possible royal families. Nor is the public

buying for reform. Most seclusion bars do not ring with challenges to the 1701 Act of Settlement, or lively debates about primogeniture. What people really talk about, when they talk about the royal family, is the breathtaking prattishness of the middling Windsors. For this opprobrium, the royal family again has itself to blame. Even after the proliferation of smutty tapes and kiss-and-tell memoirs, many royalists did not really believe the stories of royal adultery until they were confirmed, voluntarily, by the protagonists. If the Way Ahead committee had only been bright enough to demand a period of decent reticence, all could still have been forgiven. A decision to keep mum and his doggo would also have frustrated Britain's wee band of republicans. This hardy menacing alliance of middle-class pressure groups and one newspaper may be fluent on

What people really talk about is the breathtaking prattishness of the middling Windsors

the offences of the monarchy, but invariably flounders when asked what should fill the conspicuous vacuum it would leave behind. Even the Independent on Sunday, when it bravely declared itself for "the final triumph of the people", could only conclude, somewhat lamely, that "we shall try to take the debate further and to explore how a British republic might work". A subsequent readers' poll had Tony Benn as the favourite for president. The exploration continues. If the

Julian Critchley urges modest reforms to secure the monarchy, while above, Catherine Bennett thinks the royals need a spin-doctor to save them from themselves

Tricks of the trade

UNTIL I saw Tony Benn on the telly the other night I thought Charles Dilke to be the last prominent politician to be a republican. It was, of course Tony Benn (there was more to his name in those days) who, as Postmaster General in the first Wilson government, changed our postage stamps. As one gaudy edition followed upon another we have become the Tann Tuvo of the developed world. How long will it be before Alan Shearer shares a stamp with the diminutive head of the sovereign? Perhaps Clem Attlee was right when he remarked that any Labour MP who expressed republican views was "a lightweight". I suppose it is extraordinary that in the Age of the Common Man, there should still be a royal family whose task it is to represent a sense of historical continuity, and to speak to, and for, the nation in times of festivity and crisis. I can remember the Queen being proclaimed monarch at a small ceremony at Carfax in Oxford in 1952. Our newspapers, at that time British-owned, all wrote of a "New Elizabethan Age". I cannot remember taking much notice. In those far-off days we were more interested in girls, the weekly tutorial and the promise of a glittering Union career that would lead inevitably to Downing Street. The first two were my concerns; the third that of the young Michael Heseltine.



among the worst in the world (63 per cent are foreign-owned; more, if you count Lord Rothermere's living in Paris). The tabloid press is without doubt plus royale que le roi, for Sir Mirror and the Sun, to say nothing of the News of the World, depend for their profits on the exploitation of the royals whether they be toe-sucking vulgarisms, or as upright as the Queen Mother. In 1940, the King and Queen, who had refused to be driven out of London by the Luftwaffe, toured the East End to inspect the bomb damage. They spoke to a Jewish tailor who, so it was said at the time, advised the monarch "to put the Empire in the wife's name". After 17 years of Tory government, I do not take so gloomily a view of the nation's prospects. Even if there were to be a United States of Europe (which I favour) - the monarchy would stand for the identity of the British people. Closet republicans, and only few of them have as yet "come out", are careful never to address themselves to the problem of who should succeed as President of the Republic of Great Britain. Should it be Mr Alistair Goodlad (the Government Chief Whip), Sir Edward du Cann or Mr Terry Venables? A Head of State would need a good pair of calves (silk stockings being obligatory), be tall so as not to look ridiculous in a top hat, and, most important of all, a home life over which hovered no breath of scandal. Could we ever agree upon such a paragon, and, if we could, would not his menials be a considerable drain upon the exchequer? Mr Roy Hattersley is beyond ambition, while Mr Gerald Kaufmann, who is staying on at Westminster, is not. I have a nasty feeling that certain people win the day, King Charles III would have to make way for Lord Archer of Burnham-on-Crouch.

Julian Critchley is the Conservative MP for Aldershot

penny on the curious grounds that the Queen is the richest woman in Britain. In fact, she is not. The richest woman in Britain is Betty Granchester, widow of Lord Granchester, and the principal shareholder in Littlewoods, the largest private company in the British Isles. God Save the Pools. It is a pity that we have

been obliged by events to choose between Prince Charles and Diana. The heir to the throne seems to be descended from Albert the Good, in that he is an intellectual who would feel quite at home in the pages of the Guardian. He has little in common with Victoria's wicked uncles, Diana, on the other hand, if her Panorama

broadcast is any guide, is as daft as a brush, but a darned sight better-looking. I do not blame her for taking out an injunction against certain unpleasant photographers, whose persecution of both the infamous and famous should be brought speedily to an end. But to say that it is to raise the question of our newspapers, which are

fighting for 10 or 15 years for residence permits, feeling they are now integrated into French society despite arriving illegally. Most have jobs and families with children born in France. With a little diplomacy, their protest could have been shunted into oblivion at the beginning instead of developing into the most insoluble crisis the Gaullist-led government has faced since Jacques Chirac's election last year. Jean-Louis Debré, the interior minister, has said he will never issue residence papers in case his action is seen as an invitation to other illegal settlers. He wants to ship out all the protesters in charter planes to show the extremist National Front electorate just how tough he is on immigration. But Mr

A soap opera in church

Paul Webster on the hunger-strikers who have united the glamorous and the good

AT PARIS'S Saint-Bernard church, the atmosphere was beautiful and benignant as the weekend of offer their mediatic support to 10 African hunger-strikers whose official residence papers has developed into a political soap opera. Yesterday was the 49th day that the men from Mali, led by Babakar Diop, have lain motionless in their sleeping bags while photographers push and shove to catch contrasts between the frail protesters

and showbiz supporters. Among them the actress Emmanuelle Béart and the theatre director Ariane Mnouchkine have followed in the wake of charity superstars like the former bishop of Evreux, Jacques Gaillot, and Abbé Pierre, veteran fighter for the homeless, rehabilitated after abject apoplexy for suspected anti-semitism. Famous faces have each been allotted a hunger striker to whom they will be handcuffed if police are despatched to repeat an earlier church expulsion

during five months of protest involving 300 other Malien sans-papiers: men, women and children. But so far, the most threatening violence in Saint-Bernard's occurred when Danielle Mitterrand, the late president's widow, made a visit during which photographers trampled over the weakened, black bodies in search of an emotional close-up. Outside the church, crowds are getting ever bigger, sensing that France is about to go through a trauma. The Malians, backed by their own embassies, have become the only worthwhile domestic front-page story in the August news drought.

Chirac, holidaying on the Mediterranean, has refused to give the signal for forcible expulsion (perhaps wondering whether it would better if Mr Debré were to resign while allowing time for what was originally an extreme leftwing campaign to develop into a cause that has re-invigorated orthodox opposition, uniting communists, socialists and trade unions in official condemnation of government heartlessness. Airline and travel agency staff have refused to cooperate with plans to set up charter flights, and even the police seem to have become uncooperative after receiving a bad press when they dragged the hunger strikers off to hospital last week. If they try that again, a few media stars could be attached to the protesters.

Step forward, all friends of the footnote



David McKie

WE MAY be about to witness the death of the footnote. Despite its many years of useful and versatile service, publishers in the United States are turning against it. Yet if footnotes disappear, authors will no longer be forced to state their sources, enabling others to check and challenge them. We need an organisation, called perhaps The Friends of the Footnote, to save this unique and valuable art-form from extinction. "Remember the way in which his weighty speech on French architecture was overshadowed by some silly remarks about chess," writes Mandelstam in the New York Times News Service. "The origins of the footnote are unknown. The New York Times thinks it started with academic critics of Descartes, but the philosopher Pierre Bayle, published an encyclopaedia in 1697 bursting not just with footnotes but with footnotes of footnotes. Though footnotes are most extensively deployed in academic works, they also appear in less predictable contexts. The nowadays largely unread Victorian novelist Edward Bulwer Lytton, for instance, peppered his historical adventures with footnotes designed to ward off attacks by real historians who treated such stuff with disdain. Thus in The Last Of The Barons, the mention of an arras is immediately buttressed by a footnote arguing that the historian Hallam, who had publicly questioned whether such things existed in the reign of Edward IV, was in serious error. (For an instructive account of the use of whirlicolles in Britain before the reign of Richard II, see the footnote on page 427, op cit.) A recently published American novel, Infinite Jest by David Foster Wallace, has 388 footnotes spanning 96 pages. Footnotes in poems are rarer, but the otherwise deservedly obscure Victorian poet Edward Edwin Foot rarely launched a poem without an accompanying frottola of footnotes. The campaign against footnotes, the New York Times suggests, gains much of its impetus from marketing people. "A lot of our authors are aiming at the general reader," Jennifer Snodgrass, marketing director of the Harvard University Press, is quoted as saying, "and our marketing department tells us

that footnotes scare off people." Though full of appeal for pedants, this kind of academic undergrowth is "odious", as Roy Jenkins would see it. Like bats in caves, there are words which nowadays live almost entirely in the semi-darkness of footnotes. Ibiid (short for Ibiidem) is one. Denoting a reference to a work already quoted, a function also performed by op cit (work cited) and its cousin loc cit (much the same). Passim (throughout) is another favourite. The most lethal, however, is pace, a device used for putting down rivals who dare to reach conclusions contrary to one's own. For example: "as was long ago established, by rigorous investigation, night follows day" pace Hesseenthaler, who astonishingly in his Henry VII and the Genesis of Blur appears to believe that day follows night." It cannot be said too strongly that one of the principal functions of footnotes is to do down one's academic competitors. Vicious battles are fought in death-dealing small print on these rarefied pages. The wounds are often most savage when the language is little more than a raising of eyebrows. "It will perhaps, surprise admirers of Mr Foster to find him asserting..." "Plunge in the pond politely": that is the watchword.

Footnotes to footnotes: Authors love to express indebtedness in their footnotes, though only for minor discoveries; the big ones are all their own. They hope it gives the impression of scholarly generosity, though it's often a form of penance. Be wary, for instance, of the academic who says: "I owe this apocryph to my student, Geoffrey Tiddles." This usually means that Tiddles, who has come to the university for quite other purposes, has been wheeled/pressurised/blackmailed by his tutor to carry out his more boring bits of research. Even Wallace's efforts, however, are puny compared to a single footnote in The History of Northumberland by John Hodgson, published in 1840, which according to the New York Times ran for 165 pages. See also my "Taking the doggerel for a long walk" (Guardian, July 21... One huge temptation of footnotes, rarely resisted, is the chance they offer an author to recommend all his other works on this and related subjects. One of Foot's poems begins: "The captain scans the ruffled zone!" The footnote explains: "A figurative expression, intended by the author to signify the horizon." Even the Friends of the Footnote, I think I can promise, will draw the line at items like that.

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Radiance and solemn innocence... Camilla Horn in Faust

Camilla Horn

Image of expressionism

THE GERMAN actress Camilla Horn, who has died aged 83, made her debut in Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau's silent classic Faust (1926-28). It was the film that was to ensure her lasting fame.

instead of the usual 10, that she neglected to reveal until too late that her feet were considerably larger than Dageover's and would not fit into the shoes. Murnau punished her for this time-wasting Cinderella scenario by making her wear the shoes till her feet swelled and it was impossible to shoot the scene.

of Janet Gaynor. In 1928, however, she was released to make two films for United Artists, starting with John Barrymore in Tempest, a lurid melodrama set in the Russian revolution, and Eternal Love, a historical romance which was Ernst Lubitsch's last silent film.

Hans Albers, Ivan Petrovich, Gustav Froelich. She had a long private alliance with one of her co-stars, Louis Gravelle, though they never married. Her best-remembered film from the 1930s is Fairwinds Fall, the German-language version of Jacques Feyder's circus drama, Gens de Voyage.

Heads launched a stage career that included a 1961 tour of Gigi. Her final stage appearance was in 1976-77, in a production of Arsenic and Old Lace at Bad Godesberg.

W Gordon Smith

Talent beyond the fringe

W GORDON Smith, who has died aged 67, was one of the leading Scottish playwrights of recent decades, but also a ubiquitous figure in many aspects of Scottish cultural life. He was respected as a critic not least because he had engaged in most of the art forms about which he wrote.



Smith... theatrical legend

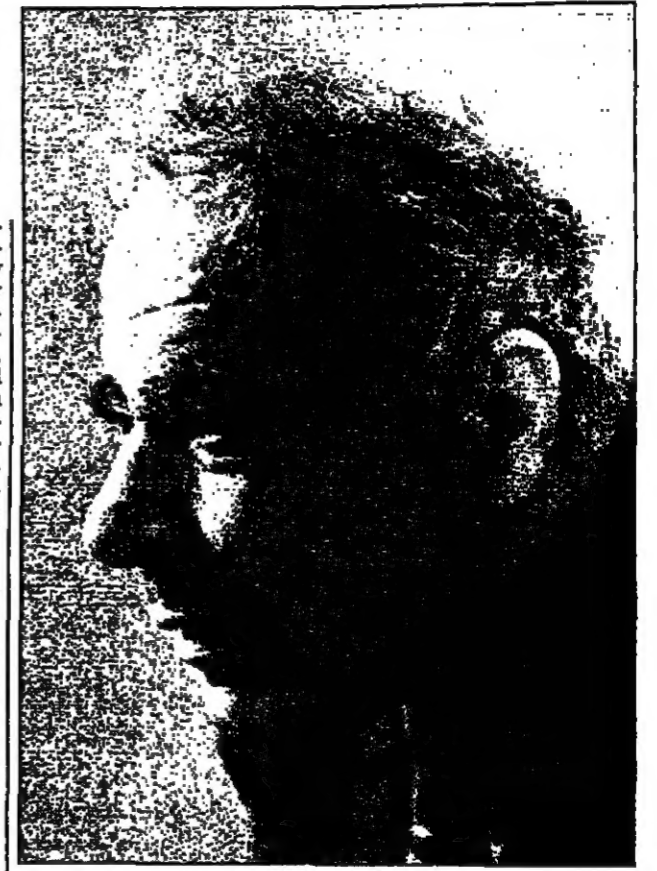
man Mafia" outside the mainstream of Scottish theatre. Hunter and Smith thought first of calling themselves Scotia Nostra, but opted instead for Cacciatori Fabbro, the Italian translations of their names. This was probably to the puzzlement of a decade of Italian visitors to the Edinburgh Festival.

Victor Ambartsumian

Way to the neutron stars

ALTHOUGH he never worked outside the former Soviet Union and spent most of his life in his native Armenia, the astrophysicist Victor Ambartsumian, who has died aged 67 at his home within the Byurakan Observatory, Yerevan, which he founded in 1944 and directed until 1988, changed the thinking of the world of science.

and originality of Ambartsumian's work greatly influenced theories of cosmology and the direction of cosmology throughout the world. His observatory at Byurakan became an international centre, a position greatly reinforced between 1961 and 1972 when Ambartsumian served successively as president of the International Astronomical Union and of the International Council of Scientific Unions.



Ambartsumian... challenging convention

the highest award of independent Armenia, the medal of the National Hero. He won major awards throughout the world, became a foreign fellow of the Academies of France, Germany, India and America, and, in 1989, of the Royal Society in London.

Jackdaw



Ambushed

IT IS Saturday, 6 July 1996. The Katumata women are preparing for the day they have awaited all year. They rub their bodies with coconut oil and dress themselves in shell necklaces, brass skirts and armlets made of rine. They are bare-footed, bare-headed and under the skirts, bare-bottomed. Soon they will form a vibrant procession and begin the traditional ritual of carrying yams - the potato-like tubers - from their gardens to their villages. They will also take part in another annual custom. "We will force any man who provokes us to have sex," declares a grass-skirted young

woman named Primrose. Like their grandmothers and mothers before them, they will spare no mercy to any male from outside their territory who strays into their path. First they will accost him by means of a road-block and strip him naked. Then they will hold him down and, one by one, have sex with him. Any victim who fails to rise to the occasion will not escape lightly. "We'll take turns to sit on his face," says Primrose triumphantly. "You can have sex with whoever you choose," says Sarah Fakhaku. "Even married couples can have flings. It doesn't interfere with their relationships and it has nothing to do with love. It's purely for fun." The female penchant for raping men is considered an extension of this high-voltage hedonism. "We have to get permission from the village chief to start raping," informs Sarah. The tables are turned in the Trobriand islands of Papua New Guinea. Marie-Claire

river where lots of people - actors, artists and writers - work from home. Often we go for a walk, then come back for lunch. There is always a mixture of friends like Willie Shawcross and Paul Johnson. I bring the ingredients back from Italy - Parma ham, basil and rucola from my garden there. I like to cook asparagus with Parmesan. It's instant food for instant friends." Drinks parties. Sophia Steel: "Our house is a great party house. I've painted all the rooms primary colours and the dining room with clouds and balustrades - all a little baroque. I love to throw themed parties. They are lots of fun and express my choreographic passions - I'm apt to burst into song at any point." Weekends in the country. Lady Dashwood: "The root of my parties' success is the house, West Wycombe Park. There are lots of drawing rooms, and it's both very grand and cosy. When I have 24 people to dinner, we use the long table. Also I invite a mixture of attractive and intelligent people, and try not to have two stars."

Dinner and dances. The Countess of Normanton: "What makes a party successful is the personal touch. The whole thing is instinctive. Once I had a dance and the marquee blew down in a storm, and everyone had to move into the house, dragging evening gowns through the mud. Inside, people sat where they could, eating with plates on their laps. The English are wonderful at making the best of bad situations." Tattler at home gives us advice from those who really know, sponsored by M&S & Chandon, of course. It hurt YOU know how envious people are when you get a new car? Well, this year really rub it in. The Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) provides a possible text for the Thatcher years. Suggested by David Elsom. Big bash ONE WORLD Week is an annual education programme, which involves tens

of thousands of people. It runs from 20 to 27 October and its theme is "Living on the Edge". This year's action kit has a chapter called "DIY Disarmament", which is aimed more specifically at young people. (The first question asks, "Have you ever had to stand up against authority of any kind - school, work, parental?") It details the case of the East Timor Ploughshares campaign group who broke into a British Aerospace factory in January and damaged a Hawk jet. A section called "questions and activity ideas" asks groups to read aloud the testimony of Joanna Wilson, a protester about Timor, and say why she was justified in her action. It asks them if they have ever stood up against authority, and under what circumstances they would break the law. A section called "Learning to be active citizens" suggests that groups use workshops to examine how the Ploughshares protesters tried to stop the Hawk jets from being used for genocide. If you spot small green figures in your local area, do not be

alarmed: it is not the men from Mars, but children in combat gear practising disarmament techniques. It is thought that chalk and blackboards are the main targets and will effectively be destroyed with a hammer. Church Times. Hot hobbyists LIKE football, birdwatching has a whole sub-culture of internetacne disputes and jostling. It's a world riven into two mutually antagonistic groups, the twitchers and the birders, and Gary is a fierce partisan of the latter. "Twitchers" he says wistfully. "They're the ones who give birdwatching a bad name. They're fanatics." The twitcher's sole aim in life is to spot and record as many different varieties of bird as possible, and he'll not think twice about phoning in sick, and chartering a helicopter to the Shetland Islands if a white stork is "showing well" in the area. But for Gary there are always new birds to photograph or identify by their colouring, call, habitat and behaviour. "That's my challenge," he explains. "I derive most pleasure from the ones which are difficult to identify." Birdwatching slang Birdwatcher: Anyone who watches birds in their back garden. Birder: A more active version. Twitcher: Rare bird, or obsessive bird fan who stalks it. Stringer: Person who falsely claims to have seen a particular bird. Blocker: A rare bird on a

twitcher's list - unlikely to be on anyone else's. Ticker: They tick off species as they see them. MORE ANORAKS: James Bunce's obsession with old gas cookers was OK when he had just a couple in his small terraced house in Cloucester, Shire. But now he's got more than 100. There are cookers in the dining room, bedrooms and the garden shed. As for girlfriends, they just take one look at the "I Bunce Cooker Museum" and they're off. Al-though Greg Heathcliff, from Swindon, works for British Rail, he spent £4,000 on a replica Western Glass 52 loco which is supposed to be a garden shed. "I've always wanted a train of my own," he says. The second and concluding part of Jackdaw's anorak lifestyle special. Extracts taken from Focus magazine.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171 713 4366. Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Emily Sheffield

Royal romps

KITCHEN entertaining. Lady Powell: "I live north of the



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# FinanceGuardian

## Halifax rules out rate cuts

Teresa Hunter and Sarah Ryle

**B**RTAIN'S biggest mortgage lender, the Halifax, yesterday told borrowers that there would be no further cuts in interest rates, even if the cost of bank borrowing fell further. The society's tough stance reflected the improvement in the housing market which is expected to boost consumer confidence and further increase the Conservatives' fortunes in the polls. The improvement signalled the death knell for mortgage giveaways and discounts, described by Halifax chief executive Mike Blackburn as a low price "blood bath". The society's chairman Jon Foulds said mortgage rates were now at the "bottom of the trough" and further cuts would not boost the recovery already under way in the housing market. Mr Foulds said: "Bank base rates may fall further, but only by a small amount,

which would probably be too small to trigger a mortgage rate cut. I don't honestly think another cut would make any difference to the housing market." The Halifax's share of new lending dropped dramatically over the last six months. It reported a fall to \$649 million in interim pretax profits for the first half of 1996, but Mr Foulds said he was confident of a prolonged recovery in the housing market, where prices have risen by 5.3 per cent over the last year and turnover is up 6 per cent. The society's optimism was supported by figures showing strong consumer activity released yesterday. According to the British Bankers' Association, lending to the personal sector rose in July by more than \$1.1 billion, 50 per cent higher than at the same time last year. That included a rise of \$815 million in mortgage lending by banks. Consumer credit rose by \$269 million compared with \$266 million in June, but the

## Further jobs to go as society wields axe

**MORE** job cuts are on the way at the Halifax after Britain's biggest mortgage lender said yesterday that it intended to stamp out "old Spanish practices" in its head office and trim the branch network further, writes Teresa Hunter. The society, which will float on the stock market next June, has already cut 1,200 jobs — a quarter from its head office — but hopes to create anything up to 1,000 new jobs in its embryonic general insurance offshoot. The chairman, Jon Foulds, said it was impossible to say how many more jobs would be lost. But he added that anyone facing redundancy would be offered alternative employment with the society. However, he said that an earlier promise of no compulsory redundancies could not be guaranteed indefinitely. He said: "For the moment it stands, and

only around 100 staff have opted for voluntary redundancy so far. But we could never say we will never impose compulsory job losses." The Halifax's nearly 10 million members will be asked next February to decide whether the society should be turned into a bank. But the vote is almost a foregone conclusion given the large share giveaway on offer, due to be worth around an average \$1,000. Institutional demand for the shares is likely to be so strong that the society is currently working on a plan to ensure an orderly market in the aftermath of the flotation. The chief executive, Mike Blackburn, said: "The Stock Exchange average is some 30,000 share transactions each day. We expect several hundreds of thousands of Halifax shares to be sold daily after the flotation."

strength of the personal sector failed to drive up the overall measure of broad money (M4) in the economy, published by the Bank of England yesterday. Despite a rise in M4 of 0.4

per cent in July, the annual growth rate fell from 9.5 per cent to 8.9 per cent, the first time in ten months that it has fallen below the authorities' 8-9 per cent monitoring range. City analysts said the easing removed one of the Bank of England's key objections to an interest rate cut and renewed speculation that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will lower base rates in the

autumn. The Bank has pointed to money supply growth as an indicator of inflationary pressure while warning the Chancellor that he should raise the cost of borrowing or risk missing the government's 2.5 per cent inflation target. But concern remained that the headline rate was distorted by the large public sector debt repayment last month and a favourable comparison with July last year, when M4 was boosted by the merger of Lloyds Bank and the Cheltenham & Gloucester building society. The Federal Reserve, the US central bank, last night, as expected, left interest rates — the key overnight bank lending rate and the more symbolic discount rate — unchanged, amid signs the US economy is slowing to a pace that will keep inflation in check. Speculation that the Bundesbank could cut repo rates tomorrow grew last night after an easing in the M3 money supply growth to 8.6 per cent.

## Patience a virtue for hi-tech fans



Edited by Mark Milner

**S**TOCK markets have trouble with hi-tech technology companies. One day they can be flavour of the moment and their share prices are soaring, the next the market suddenly gets cold and the share prices come plummeting back. Orange, the mobile telephone company, is a good example. In March it made its stock market debut at a price of \$55 a share and should have been a member of the FTSE 100 share index without having turned in a penny in profits. Suddenly everybody liked Orange. The shares soared to \$53p.

The initial stock market reaction was less understanding, however. The shares slipped 10p at one point, not least because the dividend had been boosted a mere 120 per cent to 5.5p, rather than the 6p or 7p some forecasters had been expecting. That is a far cry from the swings that have affected the Orange share price since flotation. BSKyB's position as a media stock should buffer it against such vicissitudes. There may still be times, however, when investors in BSKyB, like those in Orange, will need to be patient.

## Tough at the top

**T**HE Halifax is Britain's biggest mortgage lender. Over the past six months, however, something rather odd has happened. According to the latest figures, the society which provides around one in five mortgages saw its share of the new-loans market drop. The Halifax says the fall in its share of new loans over the period stemmed from its decision to stand aloof from the remortgaging market, where a fierce battle has pushed prices to levels at which the Halifax reckons it is not worth competing. It did rather better in loans to first-time buyers or those moving house.



Reach for the sky... Robert Ayling, BA chief executive, before giving his speech in Sydney, Australia, yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: MEGAN LEWIS

## 'Open skies' deal will pave way to merger, says BA chief

**B**RTISH Airways' chief executive, Bob Ayling, yesterday rejected suggestions that talks between Britain and the US next week on a new "open skies" agreement between the two countries would collapse, writes Keith Harper. He said that the deal, which would give UK airlines greater access to US airports and American carriers improved facilities at Heathrow, was still a real possibility. Speaking in Sydney, Mr Ayling urged both governments to free up competition as a condition for approving the proposed merger of BA and American Airlines — and expressed optimism that, if the competition deal went ahead, the merger would start on April 1 next year. BA's current American partner, USAir, has issued a lawsuit against BA to prevent the merger from going ahead. Mr Ayling said that he had not spoken to USAir

about the wrangle, but had hoped USAir would have formed part of the proposed alliance. Shares in BA fell 9p to 830p yesterday following reports that the "open skies" talks were threatened by UK intransigence. But the hard line was seen in the industry simply as a negotiating tactic by the British government, which has soon to decide whether to refer the merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The Office of Fair Trading, which is investigating the deal, is still preparing its report for the Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Lang. He is under pressure from Cabinet colleagues not to go to the Monopolies Commission. Mr Ayling said Australia could only support one

global airline, and he expected it to be Qantas, in which BA has a 25 per cent share. The UK and France have told the European Commission that a \$1 billion mistle joint venture between British Aerospace and Lagardere SCA affects both countries' security interests and that they are opposed to an EU investigation of the deal.

By contrast, earlier market analysts have tried to expand their digital networks while simultaneously servicing their well established analogue-based businesses. Yet despite such factors, and a ten-page health warning in the flotation prospectus, the shares have enjoyed — if that is the term — a roller-coaster ride. Stock market players find fewer problems with BSKyB. The share price has more than doubled since the beginning of last year. It would be difficult to define BSKyB as a hi-tech stock, since it does have a keen interest in some quite sophisticated technology — though as a consumer of technology-based services rather than as a provider. That interest will increase, BSKyB has earmarked digital services as an area for expansion, though it is not saying how much it is prepared to spend. An intriguing alliance with BT, widely expected to involve a combination of television, telephone and internet services such as home banking and shopping, is on the cards. Yesterday BSKyB showed a very understandable desire to husband its resources in the face of what is likely to be a costly investment programme.

## LIFFE man is borrowed to foil copper scandal

**T**HE London Metal Exchange, shaken by scandals in the copper market, has hired a new-look consultant to help it through the next six months, the Guardian has learned. John Foyle, deputy chief executive of the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, is thought to be joining the LME on his return from holiday. His secondment will coincide with an investigation by the Securities and Investments Board, the inquiry should be complete by Christmas and may propose wide-ranging reforms of the world's premier metal market. Mr Foyle joined LIFFE in 1981, one year before its full opening. His present position — which he will retain while at the LME — includes special responsibility for regulation, membership and LIFFE's famously strict disciplinary code. Last week a trader was fined for swearing on the dealing floor.

## China ousts Japan as US deficit foe

**A**BENCHMARK was the trade surplus last month when, for the first time, the trade deficit with China surpassed the traditional deficit with Japan. Quick to hail the sharp drop in Japan's trade surplus over the past year as evidence that President Clinton's market-opening policy was working, the White House was immediately confronted with a new problem with China, whose trade surplus shows little sign of slowing their breakneck growth. The deficit with China rose

to \$3.3 billion in June from \$3 billion in May, and is now running at \$40 billion a year. In June, China agreed to curb piracy of films, recordings and computer software, averting US sanctions. China normally exports to the US four times more than it imports but this trade gap widened further in June as imports of US commercial aircraft to China fell by \$100 million. Sales of wheat and corn also declined by \$33 million. The US-Japan trade figures continue to reflect the post-war low in the dollar's value against the yen last year, making Japanese goods more expensive in the US. However, this effect will not last.

The dollar was at almost 108 yen in early New York trading yesterday, compared to its postwar low of 79.75 yen in April 1986. America's overall trade deficit narrowed dramatically in June as imports fell by the largest amount in five years, reflecting an export boom that is the biggest source of growth in the economy. ICI's subsidiary, Flotrade, has abandoned plans to set up a joint venture in China to produce titanium dioxide. Flotrade signed an initial agreement with the Yu Gang company of Chongqing last December but yesterday ICI said the two sides had been unable to reach agreement.

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Canada 2.07	Hong Kong 11.84	New Zealand 2.17	Sweden 10.0675
Denmark 6.6910	India 35.01	Norway 9.6775	Switzerland 1.20
Denmark 6.6950	Ireland 0.9350	Portugal 229.50	Turkey 125.24
Finland 6.85	Israel 4.50	Saudi Arabia 5.76	USA 1.5000

Supplied by NatWest Bank (including Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

## Britons stressed from overwork

**E**XTRA hours, heavier workloads and greater responsibilities are afflicting Britons at work, and all for no extra pay. A survey of working lives in the 1990s, published yesterday, suggests that the complaint most often associated with the decade, stress, is no more than a mask for more traditional problems. Having interviewed 1,000 people between October 1994 and February 1995, researchers calculate that nearly 75 per cent of the workforce are now expected to cover for absent colleagues, and that nearly half accept

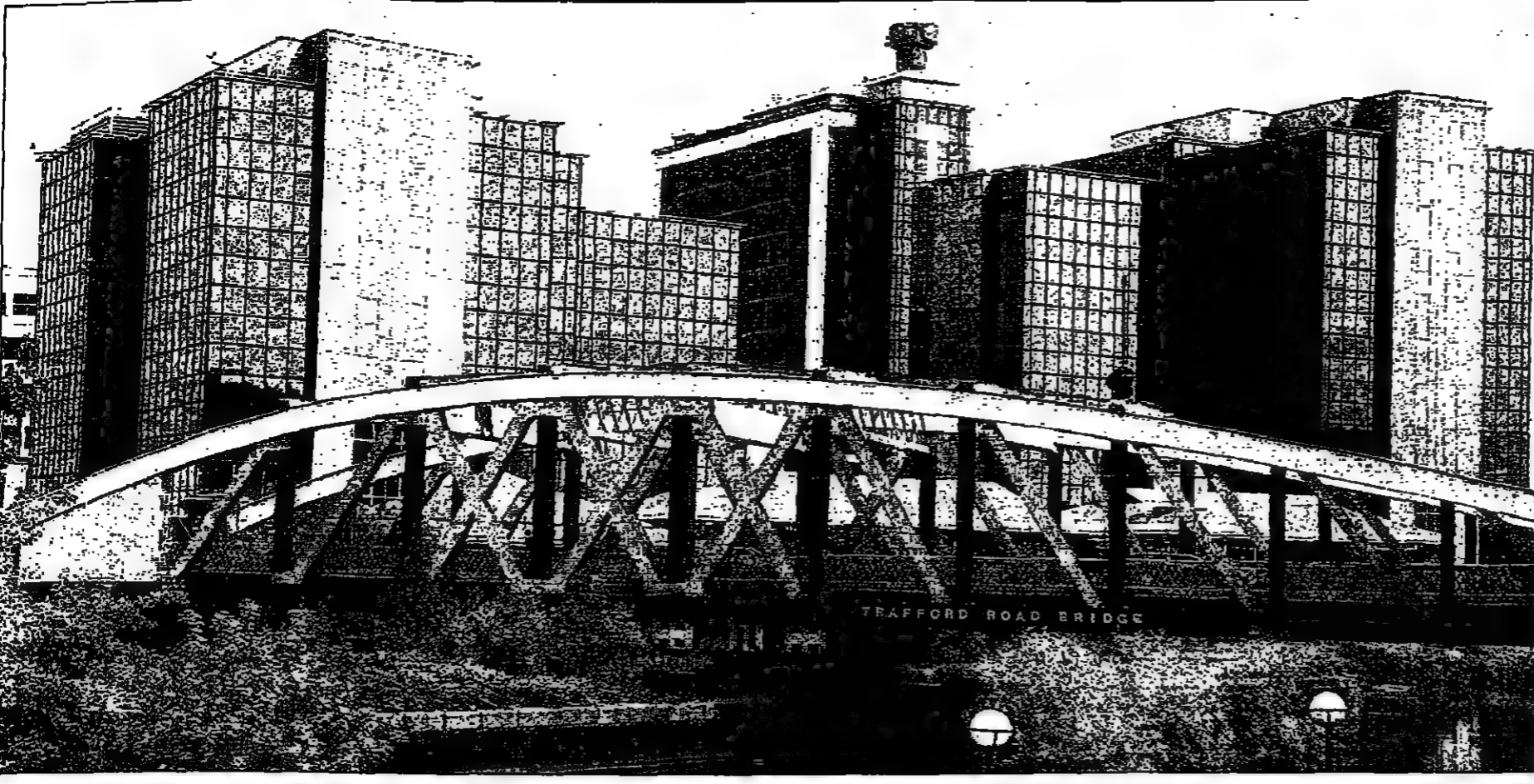
this extra responsibility without question. Only 1 per cent object, while twice that number "keep quiet and do as little as possible". One in eight resent the extra work but get on with it. Similarly, nearly half the workforce are expected to put in extra hours. Of these unfortunes, nearly half have to put in some of those additional hours at home, while 70 per cent perform their added duties unpaid. The report notes that 18 per cent of people cite poor pay as their biggest problem, with stress coming close behind at 17 per cent. But the research suggests, on closer analysis, that stress is dwarfed by the

objective problems of poor pay, management, workloads and hours. Stress, the report says, "is an understandable response to an overwhelming amount of work". Alan Hudson, one of the authors of the report and an education lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church College, says the findings reflect the ambience of the times and have their origins in changing working conditions that began before the 1980s. "The period of Thatcherism gave substance to trends that were already happening. Her role was catalytic rather than innovative," Mr Hudson said. He added that what was needed was a change in conditions at work. The research also emphasises the decline in the influence of trade unions. More than twice as many people opt for their manager, rather than their union rep, as the person best placed to solve problems. Not surprisingly, many employees dwell on the prospects of changing jobs. Over a quarter think about this "frequently or constantly", and the same proportion say it will be their decision to quit that will be the most likely reason for them to leave. But another 19 per cent say redundancy or closure will force them out. Working Lives in the 1990s, published by Global Futures in London.

## A great stride for trousers

**D**AN ATKINSON reports on Levi's latest plan to dress up the jean market. STAFF at the trendier workplaces need go no further than Levi's to see whether to Dress Up for the job or (especially on Fridays) to Dress Down. Now, thanks to Levi Strauss & Co, they can. Levi's latest plan to dress up the jean market is unveiling a new line of men's trousers to fill the gap between denim and suits. Lateral dressing, Levi-style, will give men in their thirties and forties a line of trousering that can be worn at either business or social occasions. And the name of this newest of new looks? Slaters. That's right — Slaters. But what these trousers lack in nomenclature they may make up in profitability: Levi reckons that by persuading sufficient chaps to step into a

Slaters every morning, it could be rewarded by annual sales of \$1.9 billion in the US alone. What will they look like? They will have an "accessible style", the company says, and will allow men to express more individuality, youthfulness and personality than is possible when wearing a suit. Were that not alarming enough, these accessible and individual trousers threaten "to awaken a sleeping giant", according to Levi, although the giant in question proves merely to be the market for trousers like... well, Slaters. Levi claims this is only the third clothing line it has ever launched (the second being its Dockers slacks), which is a bit rich given the company's record of repackaging a series of supposedly "authentic" jeans (miners', rivets, red tab etc) for successive generations. In fact, speculators ought to snap up as many Slaters as they can right away, within a decade "Original Slaters" will return to the market, at double the standard price.



Bridge over troubled water... Trafford Park today, with smaller companies taking the place of the great factories of yesteryear

PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

# Region fails to punch its weight

**PATCHWORK PROGRESS/ The North-west economy is expanding too slowly, and will only catch up if it can attract a higher level of inward investment, writes Martyn Halsall**

THE North-west, heartland of the first industrial revolution, is struggling to keep abreast of an improving national economy and to thrive in the international market place.

"We have not punched our weight," said Terry Thomas, managing director of the Co-operative Bank. "We should bring in levels of investment comparable with areas like the North-east and South Wales — but we have not, for years and years."

Mr Thomas, who surveys the North-west's economy from the bank's headquarters in central Manchester, was unveiling a revolution — the resignation of the entire board of inward, the regional investment agency, in the most sweeping changes since its foundation in 1985.

Behind the move, which was agreed within Inward but effectively involves its takeover by a more comprehensive body, lie reports of anxiety about the agency's performance. Critics are said to include the government's office in the North-west and the Invest in Britain Bureau, which holds a 40 per cent stake in the agency.

Driving the changes is the North-west Partnership, founded two years ago to encourage cohesion. The North-west has dozens of agencies effectively competing in the increasingly competitive inward investment arena.

The 7 million people in

the fastest growing region. Larger firms, employing more than 500 people, are the main sources of job losses. Smaller companies are employing more people.

Manufacturing, once the mainstay of the region, is forecast to achieve growth of 36 per cent, but to suffer a 13 per cent fall in employment. The fate of Trafford Park industrial estate in Manchester is symptomatic: in its post-war heyday 75,000 people worked in its huge factories. By the early 1980s the workforce was down to 28,000 and today it is 43,000, employed by 1,300 companies.

Unemployment ranged, in 1995, from 6.4 per cent in Lancashire to 12.3 per cent on Merseyside, against a national average of 8.1 per cent. On inward investment the Partnership's economic strategy report said: "The

North-west is still seriously underachieving relative to most of the rest of the UK." Forecasts predict slower job growth across all employment sectors, compared with the UK average, up to 2005, and the worst GDP growth rate of any UK region apart from Northern Ireland.

The region, with an economy larger than four EU countries, has three big disadvantages in its drive to attract investment: space, finance and geography.

Basil Jevda, Inward's managing director, said the region could not compete for major projects needing more than 150 acres because of a lack of suitable sites.

LG, the South Korean electronics group that recently made Europe's largest inward investment in South Wales, was a dramatic example. "I think we were in the frame for about 30 minutes, until they realised we didn't have a large enough site," said Mr Jevda.

Inward initially offered two sites to Toyota in 1986, but eight years later they are still not available. Toyota invested millions of pounds in Derby.

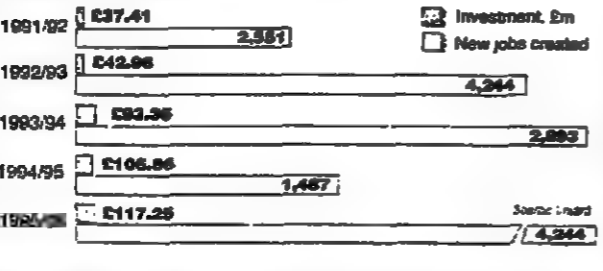
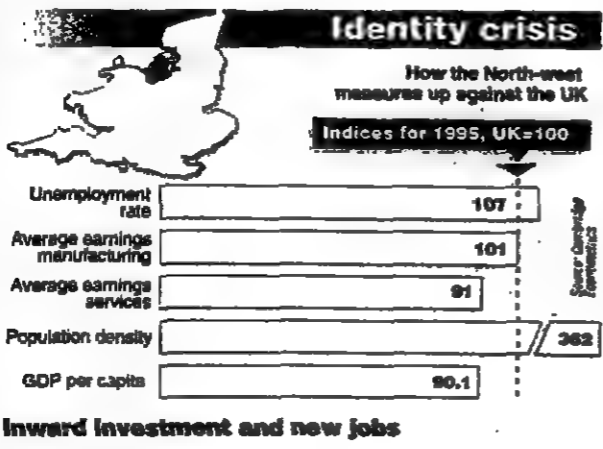
The problem of geography may prove more intractable. The North-west, stretching from the Cheshire plain to the Scottish border and with an economy ranging from sheep farming to futuristic nuclear technology, suffers from an identity crisis.

Mr Jevda claims Inward has an enviable record of attracting inward investment compared with competitor agencies. Latest results, published last month, claimed a record 4,244 direct jobs came from 31 investment projects and £117 million of direct investment in the past year.



A hard day's night... workers flood from a factory at Trafford Park in the 1960s

PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE



## Investors mustn't get the pip with Orange

### Outlook

Nicholas Bannister

HANS SNOOK, Orange's managing director, is perplexed. When Orange was floated five months ago, investors were buying into the mobile phone group as if there were no tomorrow.

Now the shares are languishing way below the offer price, and yesterday's good first-half results lifted them by only a few pence.

"We have been hitting all the assumptions which the analysts built into their models at the time of the flotation," Mr Snook said.

He blamed the low share price on the American market's recent disenchantment with high-technology stocks and investors' failure to understand all the elements which drove the business.

This will be of little comfort to those people who bought into Orange at the offer price of 235p a share. The issue was 10 times oversubscribed and the shares soared to 230p within days, before peaking at 253p. Those who failed to get out in those heady early days are now nursing losses of 12p a share.

However, they cannot complain that Orange was a loss-making company with a limited operating history in a highly competitive industry.

and went on to spell out the risk factors over 10 pages. In fact Orange has done well during the first half of 1996. The number of subscribers rose by 194,000 to 573,000 — almost double the growth rate during the first half of 1995. Since then subscribers have topped 600,000.

Average revenue per customer rose from £44 for the 12 months to December 1995 to £46 for the year to the end of June 1996. The rolling annual churn rate, reflecting the loss of customers, fell from 18.1 per cent in 1995 to 17.6 per cent, which is well below the industry average.

First-half turnover jumped from £100 million to £256.5 million and the net loss before tax rose from £88.8 million to £123.2 million, reflecting the sudden — but expected — growth in the business. The group is confident that it will meet analysts' forecasts of break-even by 1999 or 2000.

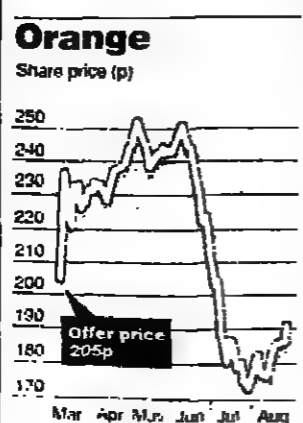
Mr Snook's confidence in the growth of the mobile phone business remains unchecked. He expects the number of mobile phone users to rise to seven million by the end of the year, and predicts that dual-mode digital handsets, capable of switching between the GSM standard, used by Cellnet and Vodafone, and the PCN standard, used by Orange and Mercury One-3-One, will be available in the first half of next year.

The collapse in Orange's share price since its flotation highlights the problem the market has in valuing high-technology companies which are incurring huge losses as they invest heavily to build their businesses.

The analysts constructed complex economic models for Orange and the big cable companies, which were also some years away from profitability when they came to the market. It now appears that some of these were not up to the task.

It seems that the models failed to take adequate account of market sentiment. A couple of poor results from big hi-tech companies in the United States left investors questioning a lot of assumptions.

On closer examination Orange was obviously a company which was not as mature as some had hoped. But the climate is right and it will surely ripen over time.



## Monks give blessing to sale of their pottery firm

A COMMUNITY of Benedictine monks has sold its £1 million a year pottery business for an undisclosed sum.

The monks at Prinknash Abbey near Gloucester, who put the business on the market three months ago after "a number of difficult years' trading", clinched a deal with Welsh Porcelain, a subsidiary of Hereditas Ltd of Kirkby Stephen in Cumbria.

The pottery employs 27 people and exports to more than 20 countries.

The Abbot, Dr Francis Baird, said of the deal yesterday: "We hope it will be beneficial to our community and our present staff."

The 30-strong monastic community sold after realising that major investment was needed to upgrade machinery and marketing.

John May, a director of Welsh Porcelain, forecast that the takeover would lead to extra jobs for local people.

He said the operation would continue at the abbey in full co-operation with the monks.

Mr May said: "I was very perturbed when I heard a business with such a fine reputation might go under."

His message to staff was: "I can assure them that their jobs are totally secure."

Prinknash Pottery began just over 50 years ago, using clay from the abbey site on the edge of the Cotswold hills.

Its black and gold wine goblets and pewter-glazed ware became top-selling UK favourites but the recession hit the business hard.

# Watchdog hits out at electricity generators

Chris Barrie  
Business Correspondent

THE electricity generators National Power and PowerGen should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for failing to pass on the benefits of falling costs to consumers, an industry watchdog said yesterday.

Accusing the two of being over-powerful, Ken Prior, chairman of the committee made up of the heads of the regional electricity consumer committees, said National Power should be broken up to foster competition.

He said the committee would ask the industry regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, to cut the influence wielded by National Power and PowerGen in the Electricity Pool, the wholesale market in England and Wales.

Mr Prior also wants an end to payments to power stations that do not produce electricity while on stand-by. He said regional electricity companies had little incentive to drive down generating prices because they were free to pass these costs on to consumers.

PowerGen, he said, had cut costs by 40 per cent. But the benefits of these efficiency savings had yet to be felt by consumers. Doubting that Professor Littlechild had sufficient power to curb their influence, Mr Prior forecast that an MMC reference would be needed.

National Power and PowerGen will account for 26 per cent and 24 per cent respectively of the electricity market in England and Wales next year. By contrast the nuclear generators will account for 30 per cent.

National Power said it found Mr Prior's remarks "surprising", given that the MMC had only recently concluded the generating market would soon be competitive.

PowerGen said its prices to regional companies had fallen by 22 per cent in real terms since 1990. The company added that the generating market was "highly competitive, with more than 20 players bidding into the Pool".

Speaking at the launch of the annual report of the committee chairmen, Mr Prior praised Professor Littlechild

for cracking down on profits at National Grid, the transmission company, and said electricity bills had fallen from an annual average of £235 to £200.

But Mr Prior and Peter Weston, outgoing deputy chairman, attacked executive salaries in the industry. Mr Weston said he and some colleagues regarded salary levels as "ridiculous" because regional electricity companies made most profit from distribution monopolies and comparisons with companies operating in a competitive world were not appropriate.

Mr Prior, a former executive in the oil industry, described the policy of the remuneration committee at Southern Electric — the company which serves his region — as "just amateurish".

Warning that about five regional electricity companies would be identified by the consumer watchdogs as laggards in preparations for market liberalisation in 1998, Mr Prior added: "Now is the time for these chaps to earn their keep."

He dismissed as "brinkmanship suggestions that competition in domestic supplies may have to be phased

## 'Now is the time for these chaps to earn their keep'

— Ken Prior, consumer champion, challenging electricity chiefs' salaries in run-up to liberalisation

in from April. He said the industry had, in some cases, been more concerned to protect its position than to foster competition.

In their report the consumer watchdogs call for higher performance targets and tougher penalties for failing to meet them. They also want changes to systems used to set investment. Noting that rural areas were especially prone to interruptions in supply, Mr Weston said Labour had been warned not to impose a windfall tax on the utilities in a way that would endanger investment.

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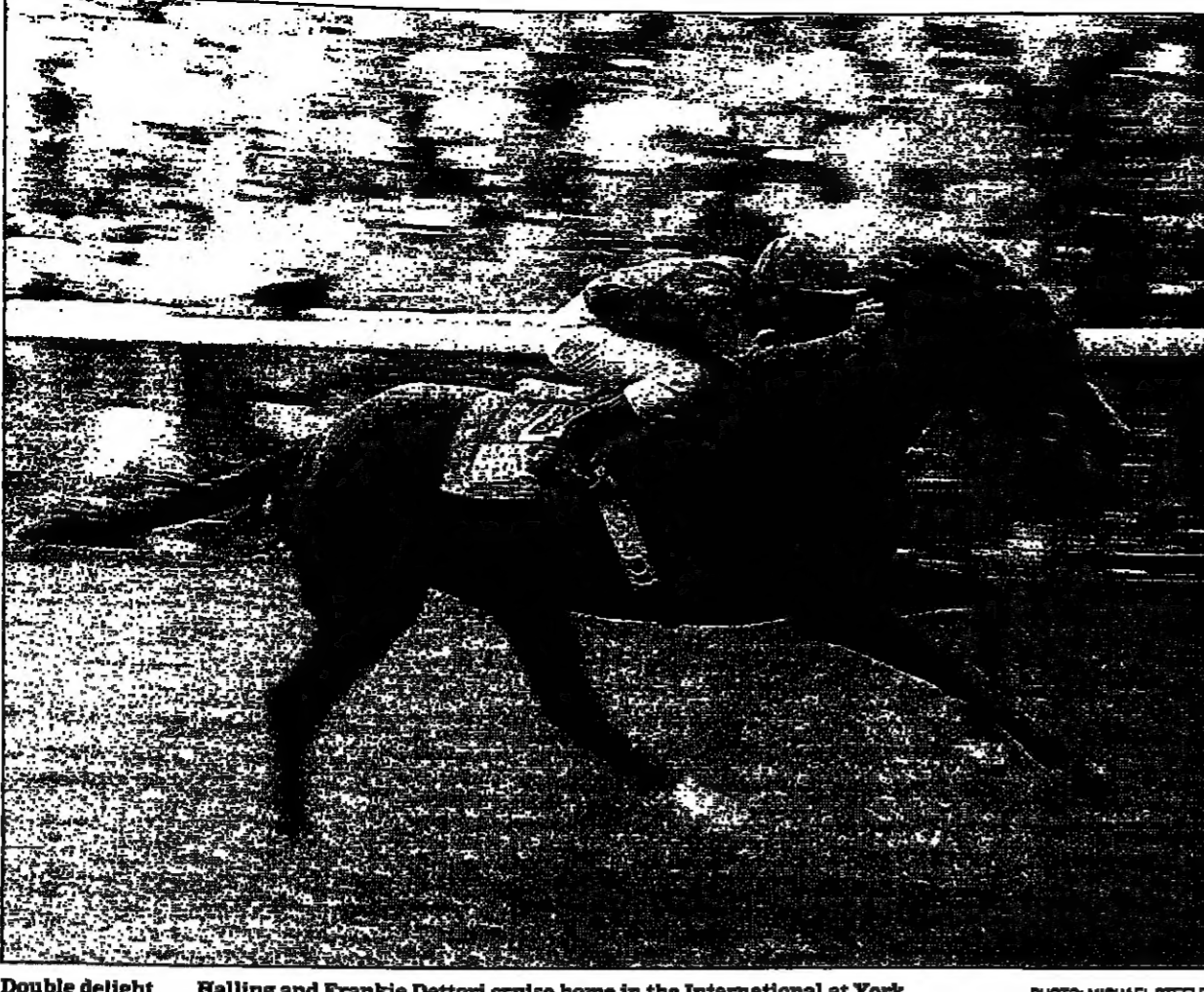
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Double delight... Halling and Frankie Dettori cruise home in the International at York

Racing
Halling turfs out rivals
with Juddmonte record

Chris Hawkins
HALLING did the double at York yesterday when following up his victory in the Coral Eclipse by winning the Juddmonte International for the second successive year.
With five group one winners in the field this was arguably the race of the season and in kicking aside such high class opposition Halling looked the horse of the season.

himself justice when meeting the American wonder horse on the sand in Dubai in the spring, but it appears that dirt does not suit him and he has now won his last eight races on turf.
"Although he trains well on sand, when push comes to shove in a race it seems to come alive," said Simon Crisford, manager of the Godolphin racing enterprise. "One thing's certain, we won't be asking him to race on it again."
The Arc de Triomphe is now a possibility as Frankie Dettori (after one of his famous airborne descents in the winner's enclosure) talked of any trip from a mile to a mile and a half being within this horse's capabilities.
"Frankie is basically just a passenger today," said Dettori, winning his fourth group race in five days. "I'm blessed to be allowed the thrill of riding a horse like that. He's so good and has got to be one of the best I've ridden - he's more pace than Lamarrara."
A measure of Halling's merit, apart from a race re-

York runners and riders with TV form

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and TV Form details.

Form Guide - Harbour Dues Handicap

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Channel 4

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Hereford (N.H.) tonight

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Kempton tonight

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7/1 Harbour Dues 18/1 Midnight Legend
7/1 Beauchamp Jade 18/1 Prussian Blue
8/1 Ambassador 20/1 Monarch
9/1 Clerkwell 25/1 Male-Ana-Mou
10/1 Snow Princess 25/1 Naked Welcome
12/1 Corradini 25/1 Time For Action
14/1 Better Offer 33/1 My Learned Friend
14/1 Foundry Lane 33/1 Shadoo Sun
14/1 Top Ceas 40/1 Remaid Leader
16/1 Desert Frolic 66/1 Dreams End
18/1 Lakeline Legend 100/1 Benfleet

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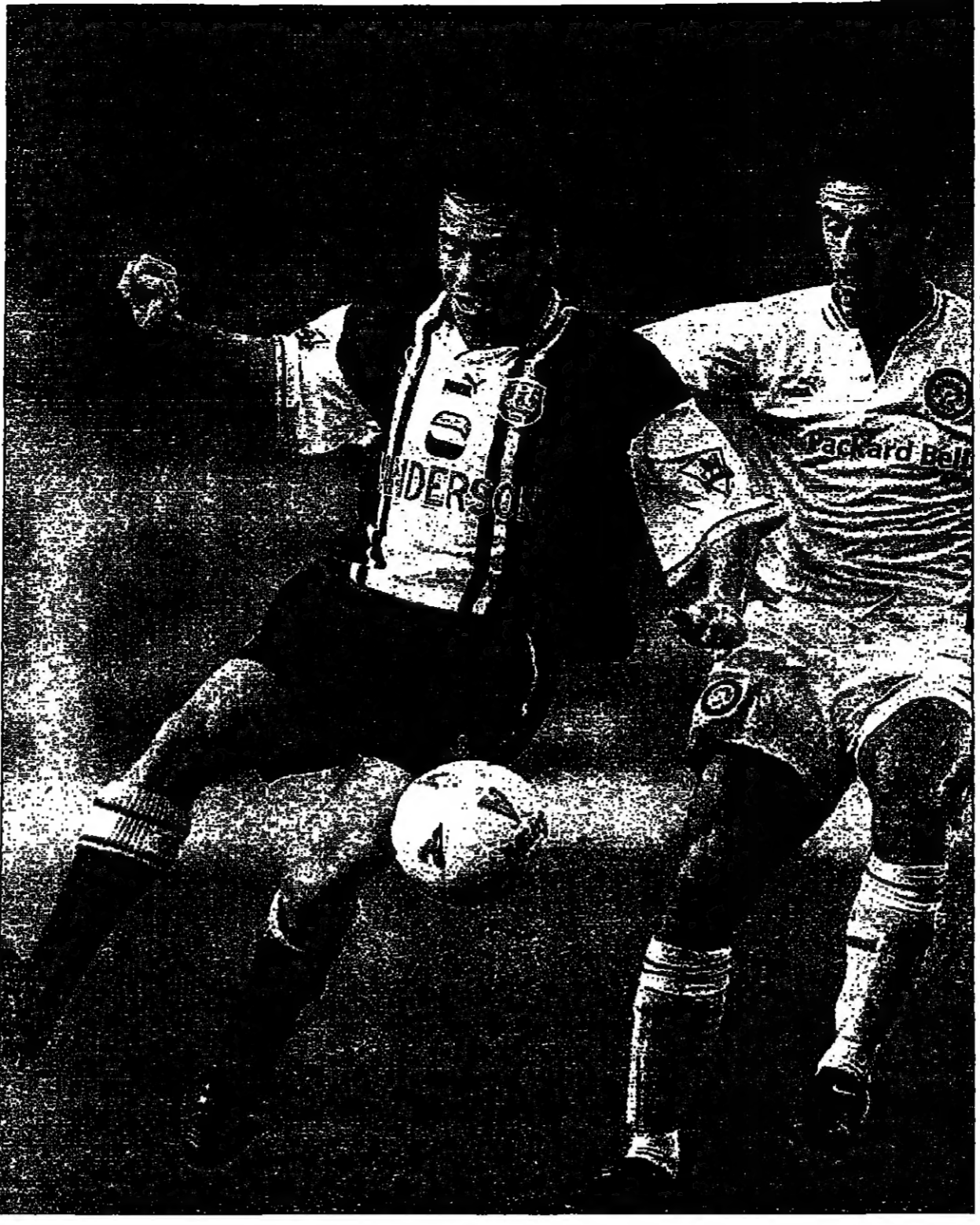
Premiership: Leeds 0, Sheffield Wed 2

Booth adds to comedy of errors

David Hopps

THE Leeds United manager Howard Wilkinson greeted the new season by misquoting Shakespeare — something about escaping “the summer of our discontent” — but winter could prove equally unpalatable if his side continue to fluff their lines. After Andy Booth's breakaway goal in injury time had added to Ritchie Humphries' first-half strike for Sheffield Wednesday, it was Wilkinson himself who had the hump.

Yezobah out there up to three months. Deane immediately following the season was only a game old and already Leeds' strike force looked undermanned. Mark Batesley might have left behind a better QPR but the Etihad Road crowd greeted his arrival on loan more supportively.



Rush job... Sheffield Wednesday's Ian Nolan holds off the veteran Leeds striker last night PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL STEELE

Uefa Cup qualifying round, second leg

Celtic 1, FC Kosice 0 (aggregate 1-0)

Cadete earns stripes with late winner

Patrick Glenn

MINUTES after Van Hoojdonk missed a penalty and Frazzetta, the Kosice defender, had been ordered off, Jorge Cadete produced the goal which took Celtic into the first round of the Uefa Cup last night. The Portugal striker slipped Wighorst's pass past Juacka two minutes from the end of an untidy match.

Still, the German might have given Celtic the lead with a ferocious 35-yard freekick which was deflected by a defender with a head of iron for a corner. The Slovaks had shown in the first leg that they were capable when in possession and some of their through-the-middle play alarmed the crowd, even if many of their moves ended with offside. Nothing was more scary, however, than Marshall's attempted clearance from the dead ball straight to Rusnik on the right side of the penalty area and then, 12 yards to the left of his own net, slipped, inviting his opponent to slide the ball towards the empty net. Astonishingly Rusnik tweaked the ball wide.

First Division: Bolton Wanderers 1, Manchester City 0

Burnden's sigh of relief

Michael Walker

BOLTON's first win since April saw them take an early lead of the marathon 46-game Nationwide League. One goal at Burnden Park last night was enough to see off Manchester City, one of the teams that went down with them in May.

shot at Branagan. That piece of casual brilliance from Kinkladze was almost matched a few moments later by Sellars. His pass was expertly threaded through to Blake, who squandered the chance with a wild shot. Earlier, though, Blake was unlikely not to earn a penalty when he turned Symons and waded over in front of the goal. Per Frandsen, one of Bolton's summer signings from Denmark, scored the goal in the 48th minute and though there were numerous other scoring chances no one up front on either side had the composure to take them. City's fans were especially disappointed that none of theirs fell to the brilliant Kavelashvili.

Coca-Cola Cup, first round, first leg: Swindon 2, Wolves 0

Soaring Allison's aim is true

Martin Thorpe

THE angry Swindon Town manager Steve McMahon refused to reveal what he said to his players after their 3-0 defeat at Norwich on Saturday. He will hopefully have found kinder words for them after this evening's victory over one of the First Division's strongest and most expensive sides.

But despite some early pressure from the visitors, Richards shooting just over the ever-determined Roberts heading in the same direction and Thompson nearly catching Talia off his line — Swindon slowly came back. Drysdale saw a shot well saved. Allison, in front of goal, just failed to get a touch to Finney's cross: then Horlock shot wide. Walters, signed on a free transfer in the summer, had also beaten the Wolves' defence back for pace before seeing his cross cleared by Atkins. So when the former Liverpool winger went down the right three minutes from half-time, Wolves knew danger was afoot. And sure enough Walters first goal. Then his second, a deep cross which found the soaring Allison's head for the first goal. The other highlight of the first half was the crowd's rousing chorus of Happy

Angry Hamilton 'kept in dark' over Ukraine preparations

BRYAN HAMILTON, the Northern Ireland manager, has criticised the Ukrainian soccer authorities for keeping him in the dark during the build-up to the World Cup qualifying match between the sides in Belfast next week.

Hamilton is furious that the Irish FA was not informed about a warm-up match Ukraine played against Lithuania in Kiev last week, from which he could have signed up the Windsor Park opposition. Hamilton has only eight minutes on video of Ukraine in action but he hopes that the players in his 18-man squad named yesterday may yet go into the Group Nine match on Saturday week with more detailed knowledge of their rivals. "I'm not giving up," he said. "I think I am close to finding another source who can come up with more extensive coverage of the team in action."

Arsenal and Keegan deny reports that Ginola is set for £4m move

ARSENAL's managing director Ken Friar yesterday denied that the club were interested in Newcastle's David Ginola while Kevin Keegan also dismissed speculation linking the Frenchman and a £4 million move to London. "I don't have to react to all that stuff," said the Newcastle manager. "I'm trying to build a squad."

was not unhappy to see the back of Riochi, said yesterday: "I spoke my mind when Bruce got the sack and some people didn't like it. The coaching staff didn't talk to me for days but I've always said what I mean and, if people can't take it, they can kiss my ass."

Results

UEFA CUP Qualifying round second leg Aberdeen (0) 1 Zalgiris Vilnius (0) 8 Ipswich (0) 1 Fulham (0) 0 Reading (0) 1 Celtic (0) 1 Wolves (0) 1 Chelsea (0) 1 Reading (0) 1 Bolton (0) 1

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Leeds (0) 1 Sheffield Wed (0) 2 Burnley (0) 0 Blackburn (0) 1 Reading (0) 1 Chelsea (0) 1 Bolton (0) 1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

First Division Bolton (0) 1 Bradford (0) 0 Cardiff (0) 1 Burnley (0) 0

COCA-COLA CUP

First round, first leg Cardiff (0) 0 Swindon (0) 2 Reading (0) 0 Swindon (0) 2

Fixtures

(7:30 unless stated) EUROPEAN CHAMPION CLUBS CUP Qualifying round, second leg

Sport in brief

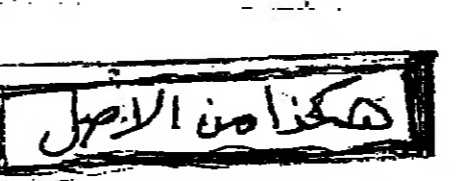
Badminton England have been reprimanded by the international federation for taking a weakened squad to the Thomas and Uber Cups, the men's and women's world team finals, in Hong Kong in May, writes Richard Jago.

Team talk The independent news and reports service 0891 33 77+ Arsenal 06 Ipswich Town 19 Sheffield United 15 Aston Villa 11 Leeds United 03 Sheffield Wed. 14

Chess DOMMER MEMORIAL (Amsterdam): Round One Vanchuk (UK) 1; Hodson (ENG) 0. Round Two Hodson 1, Vanchuk 0. Round Three Vanchuk 1, Hodson 0.

Cricket BRITISH ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (four days): (11) Warwickshire Somerset v Durham.

Chess Britain's Julian Hodgson lost from a winning position against Ukraine's world No. 7, Vassily Ivanchuk, in the opening round of the Donner Memorial in Amsterdam.



Cricket

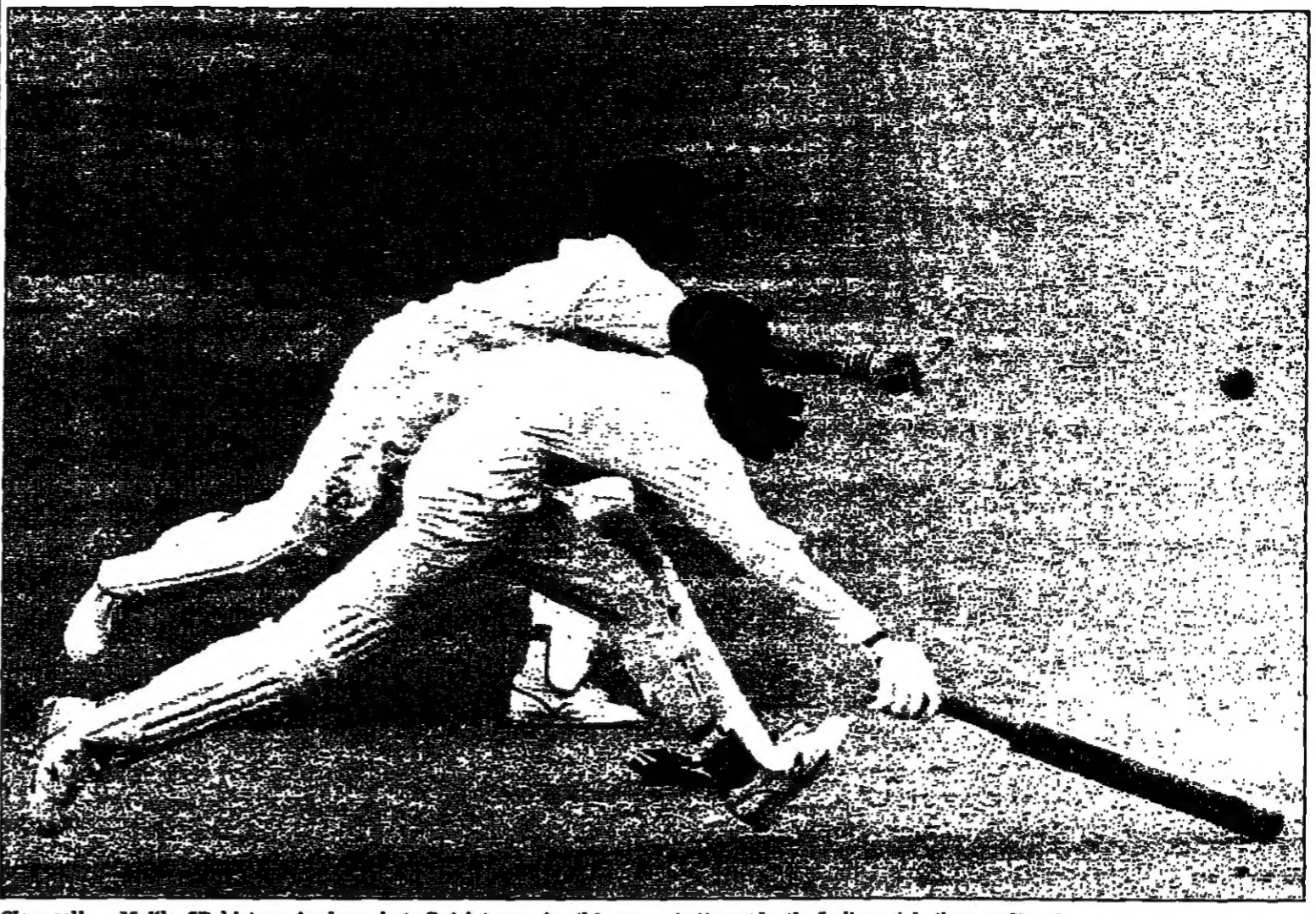
Counties defiant on Acfield Report

Mike Selvey on an anti-England feeling at the TCCB summer meeting at Lord's

THE first-class counties balked at the full Acfield Report yesterday, once again setting back the development of the England team by refusing to place national above sectional interests.

to a cavalier approach to the county game, the counties felt that overseas players add a quality to the game still much needed. Again the counties wished to retain the principle that it is they, individually, who should decide.

PITCH INVASIONS AS INDIA BEAT PAKISTAN IN UNDER-15 FINAL



Close call... Malik of Pakistan wins by a photo-finish to survive this run-out attempt by the Indian wicketkeeper Chawla

Lewis must bounce back off firm and bare track

Paul Weaver at The Oval

BEST selectors do not really want the world to think the warty, whatever signals they give to the contrary, Chris Lewis has had them wiping cartons of free-range off their faces since his England introduction six years ago but yesterday there was a clear message that the great enigmas must discover a variation consistency.

me a lot, particularly with my mental approach to the game. "But I'm one of those people who talks to everyone. I talk to umpires, for example. Alan Jones has given me one or two pointers about my run-up. I have also changed my grip recently, which allows me to impart more spin."

Lombard World Challenge climax marred by unruly scenes and obscene chanting Crowd arrests at Lord's

Mike Selvey sees a game played in the best spirit come to a deplorable end

AFTER two weeks of wonderfully vibrant cricket the Lombard World Challenge, the Under-15 World Cup, ended with unpalatable crowd scenes at Lord's yesterday. Arrests were made after India beat Pakistan by four wickets in the final.

for seven, India lost both openers within the first eight overs and a further two batsmen shortly after the tea interval, taken after 55 overs of the innings, in reaching 118.

balcony of the pavilion. Pakistan will be disappointed, for there is some pedigree in the side. Baid Khan is the son of the mighty Majid, with a grabby pair of pads and a sunhat to match, he would be a ringer. The captain Faisal Iqbal can claim Javed Miandad as an uncle, so he would not be short of a trick or two.

to spot his son Imran. There were a pair of pacy bowlers in the side, too, and a mastery, it seems, of reverse swing; the yorker that ripped off Bhavan Chander's leg stumps will not be bettered by Waqar at The Oval this week.

Motor Racing Williams balk at rule changes

Alan Henry

MAJOR changes to Formula One that include holding races over two days instead of three and having the teams make a long-term commitment to the world championship were announced by the sport's governing body yesterday.

Athletics Christie delays sprint finish

Duncan Mackay on official reservations over the ageing champion's plans to run on

INFORM CHRISTIE'S decision to delay his retirement until after the summer's European Cup in Munich has not been greeted with the unqualified joy he might have expected by officials at the British Athletic Federation.



Christie... falling into trap

Drug cheats face direct IAAF bans

ATHLETES found guilty of drug abuse in future may be suspended directly by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Rugby League Salford angry at receiving nothing for their title deeds

Paul Fitzpatrick

SALFORD REDS are angry that they will receive no prize-money for winning the Centenary championship, being effectively a meaningless championship, Wilkinson said.

Paralympics Dehydrated Payton spends night in clinic after second gold

Richard Rodden in Atlanta

BRITAIN are now lying in fourth position in the medal table but remain hopeful of at least equaling the third achieved at the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Drug cheats face direct IAAF bans

letes have to take huge amounts of water on board—a litre an hour—diluting the urine and producing samples that are too weak.

Drug cheats face direct IAAF bans

A silver also went to Leamington's Bob Matthews in the B1 (blind) 1500 metres with a time of 4min 12.07sec.

# SportsGuardian

## TCCB HANDS OUT RECORD PUNISHMENT TO SUSSEX PLAYER

# Giddins banned until 1998

### England A bowler found guilty of taking cocaine

Mike Selvey

**E**D GIDDINS, the Sussex and England A pace bowler, has been suspended from first-class cricket until April 1, 1998, for taking cocaine. The Test and County Cricket Board has also terminated his registration.

Giddins, who has 14 days to appeal, tested positive for the drug after a random test was carried out during Sussex's championship match against Kent at Tunbridge Wells in late May. A second test also proved to be positive.

The penalty was imposed by the discipline committee of the TCCB under the chairmanship of Gerard Elias QC. A board statement said it had found three charges proven: of having a prohibited substance in a urine sample; of knowingly using a prohibited substance; and, by virtue of so doing, of bringing the game into disrepute.

The board's message was unequivocal — that "cricket, its players and administrators, would not tolerate in its ranks those who indulge in the use of a prohibited drug. The committee was sure the public would rightly demand nothing less."

The committee took into account the fact that cocaine is regarded by law as a Class A drug, the most serious grouping; and, although it found no evidence that Giddins's use of the drug was anything other than a one-off, it rejected his claim that the taking of it had been inadvertent.

Giddins, represented by the Cricketers' Association lawyer Lawrie Duffman and the Sussex secretary Nigel Bett, attended a disciplinary hearing on Monday and was back at Lord's for 30 minutes to hear the verdict yesterday. "I think he was speechless. I don't think there was a reaction," said Bett. Shortly afterwards Giddins left the board's offices through a side door to be driven away by a girlfriend. "I've absolutely nothing to say," he said. "I wish I could."

It certainly puts on hold, and could have terminated, a promising career. The 25-

year-old was held in sufficient esteem to have toured Pakistan with England A last winter and, according to Bett, is a "quality player".

Whether he can play club or grade cricket in the future remains something of a grey area; other national cricket boards will be advised of the decision and the TCCB would hope for support from them. Bett's opinion is that the Sussex committee would support the ban although Giddins's future with the county has yet to be discussed.

"It's been in the background all the time. We will miss Ed but it will relieve pressures on a lot of people in the side. It was bound to have had an effect. He has probably just been a misguided lad but I think it is a fair verdict."

Drugs have yet to prove a problem in cricket and Giddins is only the second professional in England to be found guilty of an offence. In 1988 Ian Botham was suspended for two months following newspaper admissions that he had smoked cannabis.

More recently Richard Stemp, the Yorkshire spinner then with Worcestershire, tested positive for a banned stimulant but the charge was dropped after his explanation, supported by affidavit, that a drink had been spiked was accepted.

Giddins's defence is believed to have been along similar lines, suggesting that after drinking a substantial quantity of beer he picked up the wrong glass. However, taking cocaine in liquid form would have been a highly unusual, not to say less effective, method of using an expensive drug.

In sentencing Giddins the committee resisted the temptation towards leniency for a first-time offender whose use of the drug was not geared to gaining an unfair advantage on the pitch while recognising the need to punish someone who had compromised his position as a role model for children.

The suggestion that Giddins be given counselling was ruled out by the committee although it may be considered for future offenders. The Olympic guidelines for cocaine abuse involve two- to four-year suspensions and this 20-month sentence is more in step with that.

There are those who suggest that cricket, by virtue of its long-winded nature, is not a sport in which players can gain an advantage from the use of banned substances, but that is nonsense. Cocaine is "the most reinforcing of all psycho-active drugs", according to the Martindale Pharmacopoeia, and it helps the user to stay awake while stimulating the heartbeat.



Happier times... Ed Giddins on his way to three for 52 for England A against The Rest in April

TONY MARSHALL

Cocaine taken the night before a game, as Giddins suggested, would actually lead to fatigue the following day. But it is precisely because cricket is a lengthy affair, requiring concentration, that a drug such as cocaine could be taken to advantage during breaks.

The ponderous manner in which the whole investigation has been conducted has also brought into focus the need for a swifter disciplinary procedure. Certainly 2½ months is too long for this to

have been hanging around. The Board will now almost certainly be considering whether a player who tests positive should be allowed to continue playing while the case is pending.

Soccer has already taken a lead from athletics in that regard. Last year, in what was regarded as a responsible action, Leyton Orient suspended Roger Stanislaus as soon as they received confirmation of him testing positive for cocaine use. He was subsequently banned for a year by the FA and sacked by the club.

## Lovely boys score with the French



Vincent Hanna

**W**HEN I answered the doorbell Mme Maraud, from the pharmacy, fixed me with a wistful smile. "We must discuss our strategy, your wife says it will help you," she said. Nervously I agreed and set her down in the garden.

"Does anyone know," I whispered round the kitchen door, "what she's on about?" The sniggering told me all. I had again been entered for the mixed-doubles tennis tournament, and with the ferocious Céline Maraud.

We had to play the Rochets, who have won in the last two years, mostly because Alphonse is a local hero and no one wants to beat him. A lean, sinewy man in his sixties, he has the sort of eyes you can see squinting into the desert sun. Besides he has a tin leg. "Given for La France," people murmur.

Mme Maraud had no sympathy. "No fancy stuff, just let me play the shots, you stand at the net." The match was a fiasco. Alphonse and I chatted while our partners exchanged crisp forehands. "Are you see the goal of Beckham?" he asked during a long rally. "I see it many times."

The ball popped in my direction. "Hit him with it," hissed Mme Maraud. I volleyed it at the umpire. There was much applause. "Look Céline," I said at the change-over. "I cannot bring myself to assault a patriot of France who watches Match of the Day." "Stupid fool," she said. We lost 6-3.

In truth I no longer cared. Alphonse, his brother-in-law from Tours and my neighbours just in from Nantes sat under the oak tree and marvelled at the change in local perceptions. It is a time of renaissance for French football. Their greatest club, Marseille was stripped of the European Cup in 1993, then relegated, because of financial scandals. This month they are back and humming and, at a time when the national side is on the up, French players are in the news and preparations (under the great Michel Platini) are in hand for the World Cup in 1998.

Maybe it was because the French League did not play on Saturday. Perhaps they are waiting for Serie A and the Bundesliga to get going. But for the moment the French are preoccupied with celebrating English football. On Saturday L'Equipe, which sets standards for most European sports papers, had a full page on Cameroon. Maitre du Jeu. On Monday there he was again in full colour on the cover of four national magazines. On Sunday nights my neighbours are glued to the cable station Canal + which features all the goals from the Premiership.

And just listen to this: English football has had its disappointments, too long eclipsed by the proud and powerful Italians, but its prodigious vitality, its unflinching generosity, its profound authenticity continue to touch the French public, drawn to those who never cheat in sport.

This, believe it or not, is yesterday's editorial in France Football, the leading soccer magazine, which was devoted to stories on the lives of their émigrés in the Premiership. The writing resonates with a breathless enthusiasm that seems almost English.

So Frank Leboeuf, of Chelsea, says: "I love the chants. I feel the hairs on my neck stand up when I come on the pitch. I didn't think I would. It even knew my name. He was a man from another planet. Now in training he taps me on the shoulder and calls me 'lovely boy'. Every time it wins my heart."

There are lots of post-cards home from the other boys. Here is Patrick Vieira: "They said that Highbury is fabulous, fantastic. They were right. Highbury is truly a way of life."

My friends were puzzled by references to food. "Is it compulsory, in English football, to eat Indian food?" asked Alphonse. "Only at Arsenal," I explained. And all this even before Arsène Wenger has arrived.

Hovering over all is Cantona, who never dominated the game in his native land but in whom, in exile, every Frenchman takes much pride; or as they say it: "Cantona toujours et encore Cantona, à la folie." Anyway, after several bottles of Touraine Mesland we paced out 52 metres in the back garden and hit shots, à la Beckham, for half an hour. Even Alphonse. None of them came close.

"Silly old show-off," said Mme Maraud. "You know he lost his leg when he fell into a hay-baler."

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### Dealing with the positives

#### A fairly clean bill of health for cricket

**B**EFORE 1988 every sport could police itself and, not surprisingly, very few cases emerged of sportsmen failing drug tests. Even scarcer was the public disclosure of such offenders' names, and there was a good deal of whispering before the Sports Council stepped in and organised a proper programme of independent drug testing.

#### SOCCER

A SLOW starter but increasingly vigilant because of the money now in the game, the Football Association takes a lenient, habituation view of a first offence and a non-of-records approach after that. Little performance-enhancing evidence, mainly social usage; half of last year's failures were for cannabis. Roger Stanislaus's cocaine ban was intended as a warning to the rest, with testing stepped up this year at FA's expense. Eight failures last year; 28 since 1988.

#### ATHLETICS

THE most extensive network of testing of any sport, sophisticated and unpredictably random, an exceptionally hard system to break for even the most determined cheat. Only recently has the problem been brought under control. In the early '80s drug-taking was rife in Britain and worldwide. Punishment in harsh (long bans) depending on excesses offered and type of drug, but is now complicated by legal cases exploiting any testing loophole. Eleven failures last year; 40 since 1988.

#### RUGBY LEAGUE

HAS reputedly had the biggest problem of the team sports, historically with amphetamines though its highest failure rate has been among stimulants. Has tightened up considerably in the past five years from a time when drugs were a barely disguised commonplace. Punishments now harsh — a two-year ban last year for steroid abuse. Thirty-five failures since 1988; seven last year.

#### RUGBY UNION

NEVER considered to have the same scale of problem as the professional code, but since 1988 the game has stepped up its testing programme in accordance with Sports Council drives. That is reflected in the drop in their failure rates. Eleven failures since 1988; only two last year, both for stimulants (pseudoephedrine), one attracting a warning only, the other a four-Saturday ban.

### Guardian Crossword No 20,737

Set by Araucaria

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

- Across**
- 1 Mail to fight with? (4-3)
  - 5 Rainproof pudding to lay on? (7)
  - 9 Primate builds the wall in Paris (5)
  - 10 Mail to fight with? (5-3)
  - 11 Quote regulations ordering something bizarre (9)
  - 12 Monarch who must go straight? (5)
  - 13 What sounds and what smells one goes in for? (5)
  - 15 Sailor's inclination to pursue gold like a sponge (9)
  - 18 Make a melodrama out of a temperance commercial featuring a nymph and a snake (9)
  - 19 One should go shares with one's wife (5)
  - 21 Broadcaster who might be 6 (5)
  - 23 Wasting away? Test can be arranged (9)

- Down**
- 1 Figure of a dead parrot, as they say (7)
  - 2 Academic gathering needed to move half immobile pussy (9)
  - 3 24 could be inferior (5)
  - 4 Depend, without intelligence, on sables Egypt for case of mementos (9)
  - 5 Bishop's joint? (5)
  - 6 Shade of German Youth leader puncturing credibility (6-3)
  - 7 Translation of Blume for flower (5)
  - 8 Dance to deceive left-winger (7)

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,736**

14 Sticking it out to the last, cure an ill (9)  
16 Team on top of table may have a lot of cups (9)  
17 Intercourse, as it were, extending 10 metres (9)  
18 Unwilling guest of a lot of people for a long time (7)  
20 Lady goes round at church: is she making a plot? (7)  
22 Clown to the queen goes to the stakes (5)  
23 It is not corruption (5)  
24 Bad-mouthed form of 21? (5)

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**But here's something closer to the knuckle: shopping trolley film-making. Its newest exponent is Nottingham-based Shane Meadows, whose hour-long film Smalltime is proving to be one of the big hits of the Edinburgh Festival — on a budget of £5,000.**

Interviewed by Ramsey 02 page 12

سكنا من الالجر